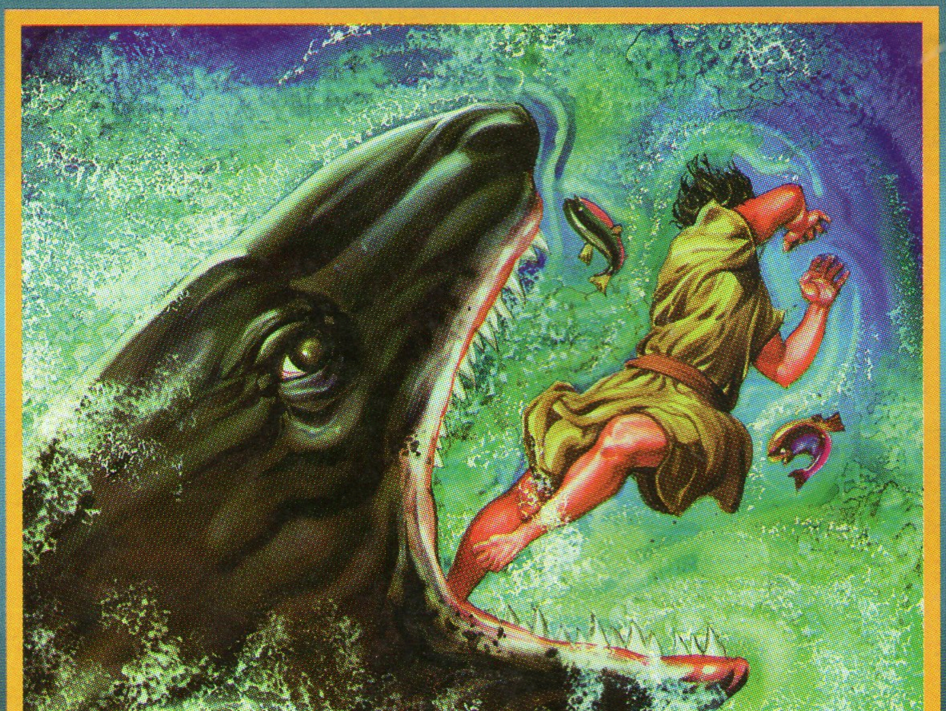
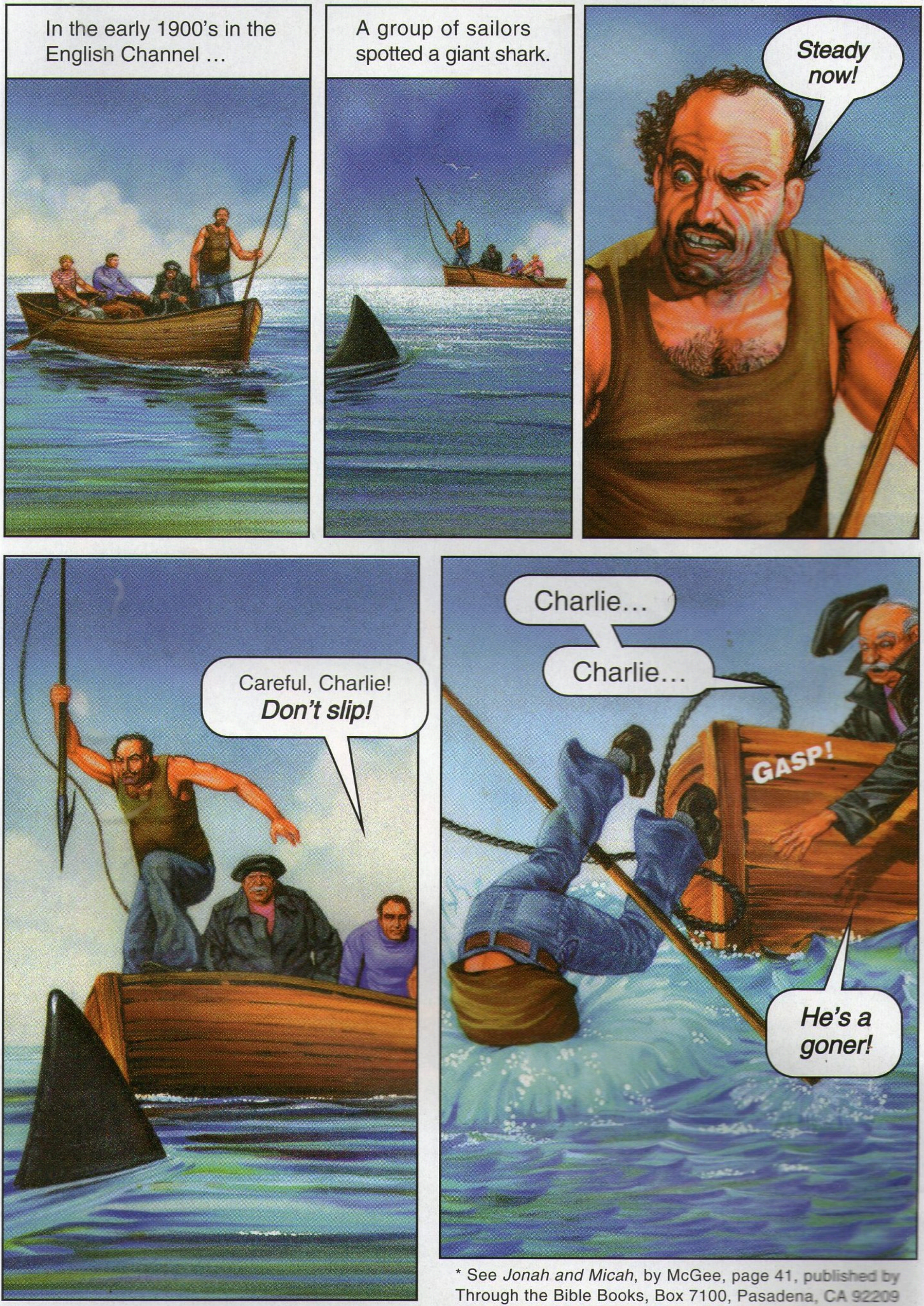
Jonah



By J.T.C.

THIS IS A TRUE STORY!*


In the early 1900's in the English Channel …
A group of sailors spotted a giant shark.
Steady now!
Careful, Charlie! ***Don't slip!***
Charlie…
Charlie…
GASP!
He's a goner!

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* See *Jonah and Micah*, by McGee, page 41, published by Through the Bible Books, Box 7100, Pasadena, CA 92209

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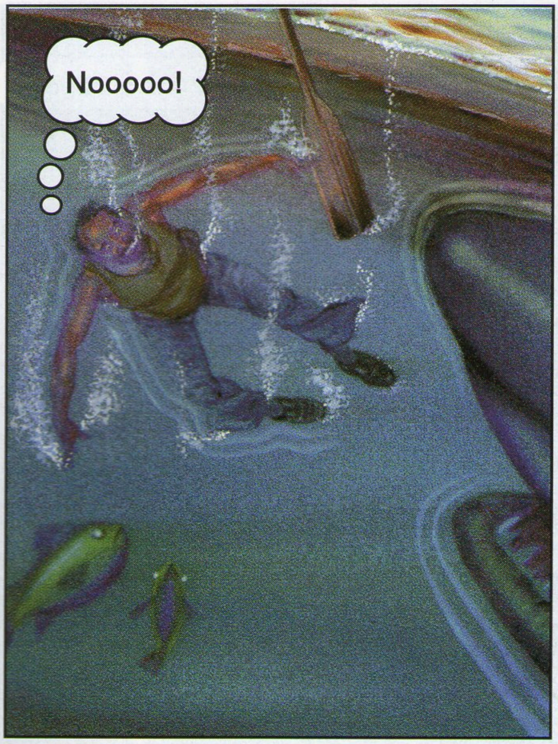
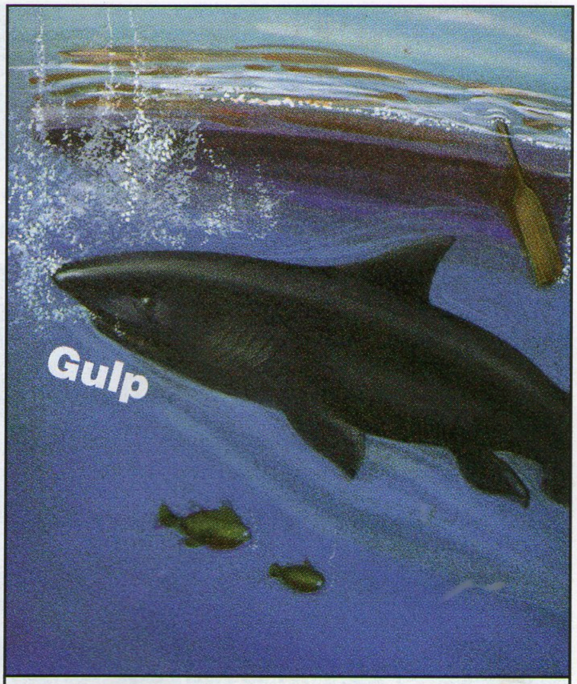
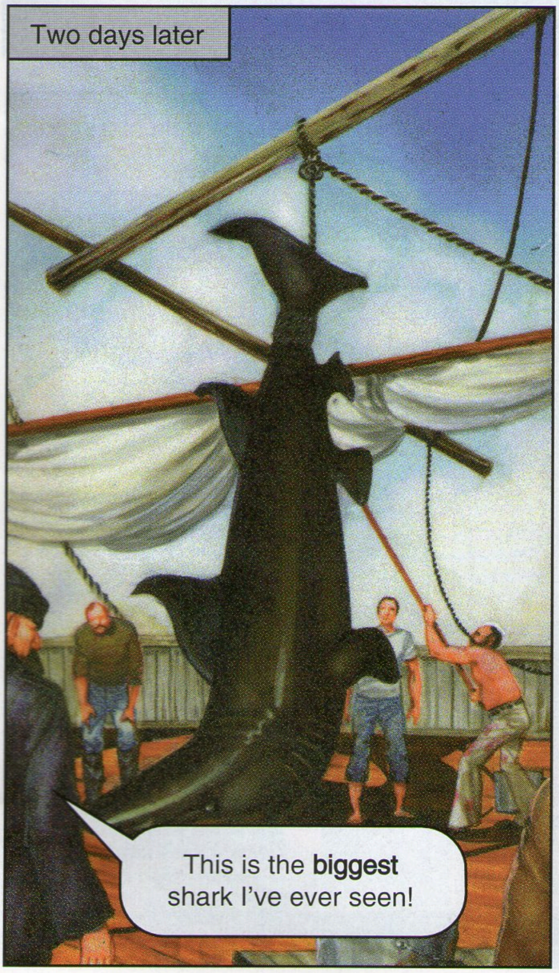


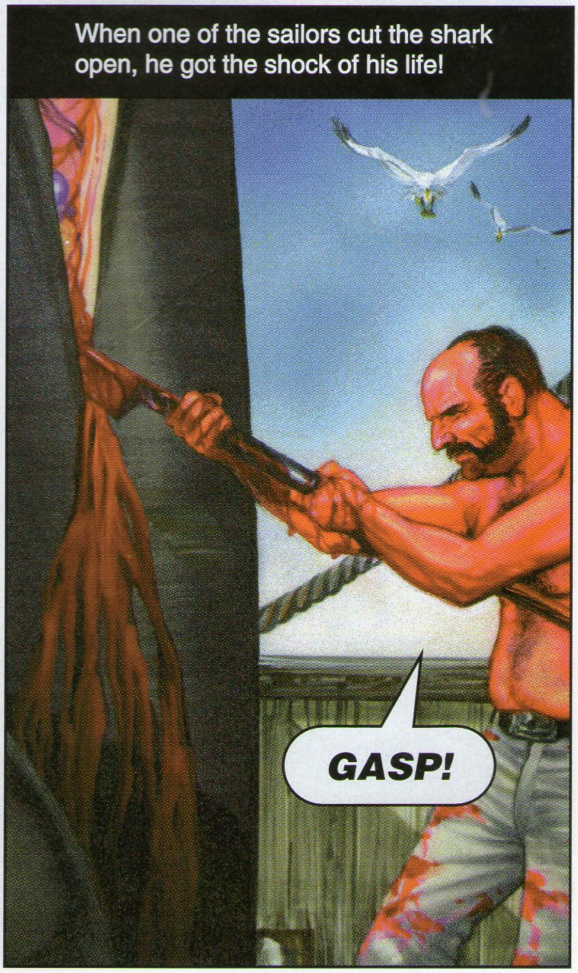


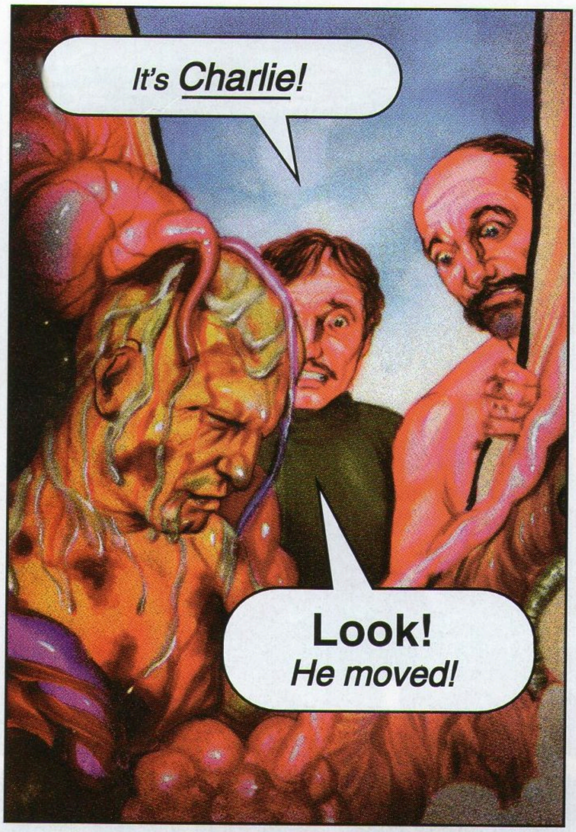
It swallowed the sailor in ***one bite!***

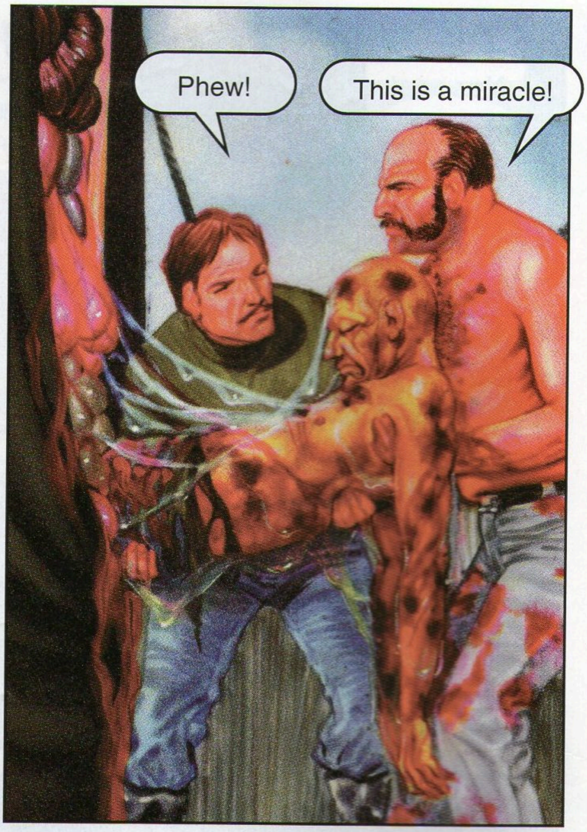
Two days later


This is the **biggest** shark I've ever seen!

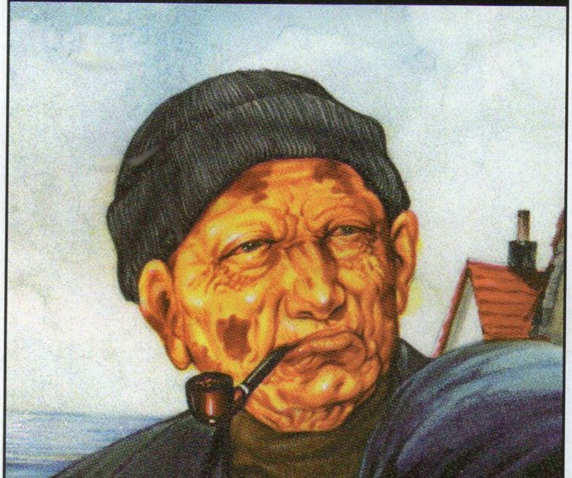
When one of the sailors cut the shark open, he got the shock of his life!



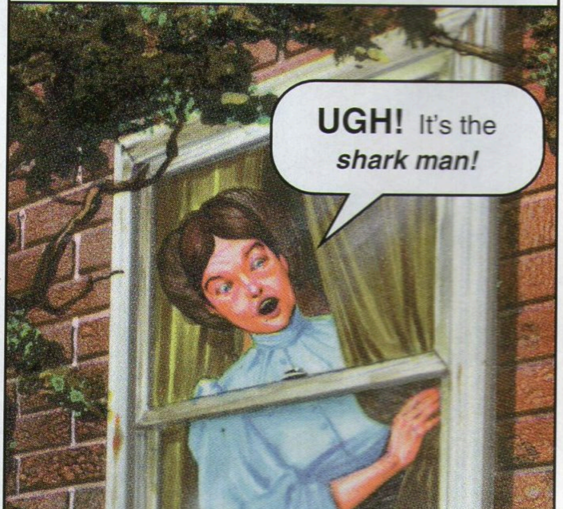

It's **Charlie!**
Look! *He moved!*

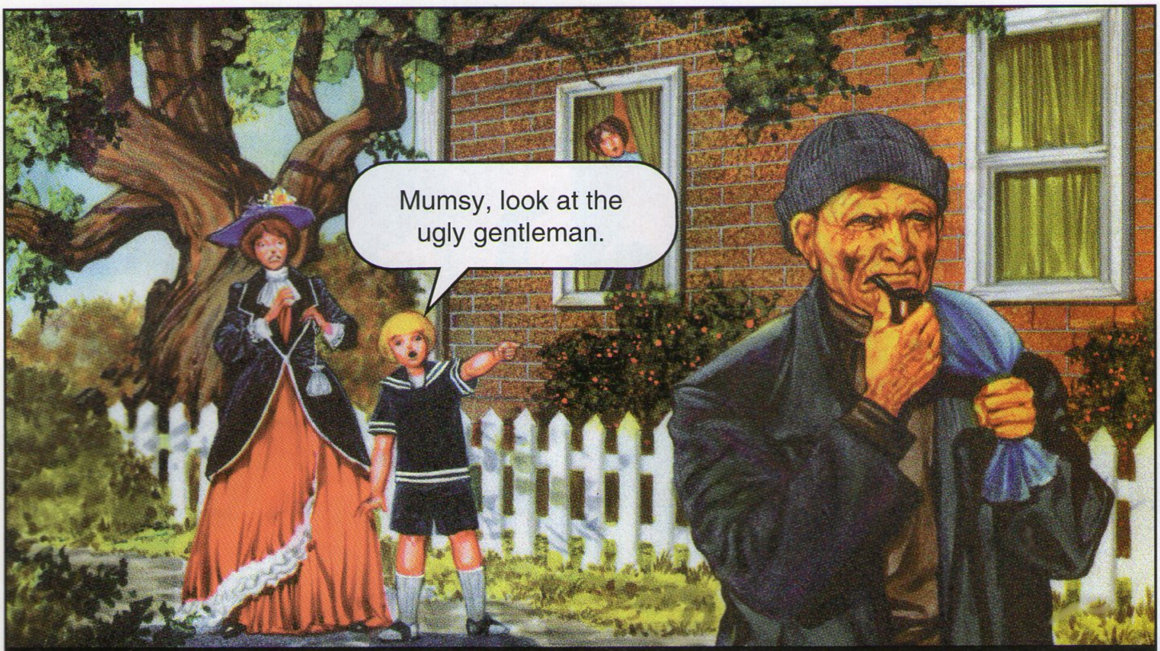

Phew!
This is a miracle!

Charlie lived on for many years. But the shark's digestive juices had destroyed his hair and discolored his skin.

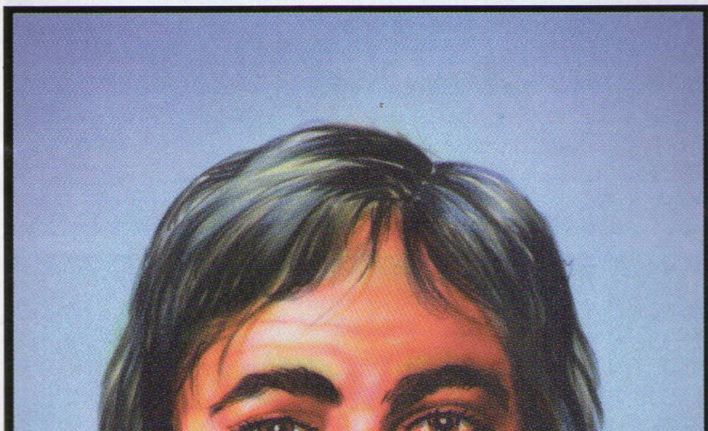


For the rest of his life, people stared at him wherever he went.


UGH! It's the ***shark man!***

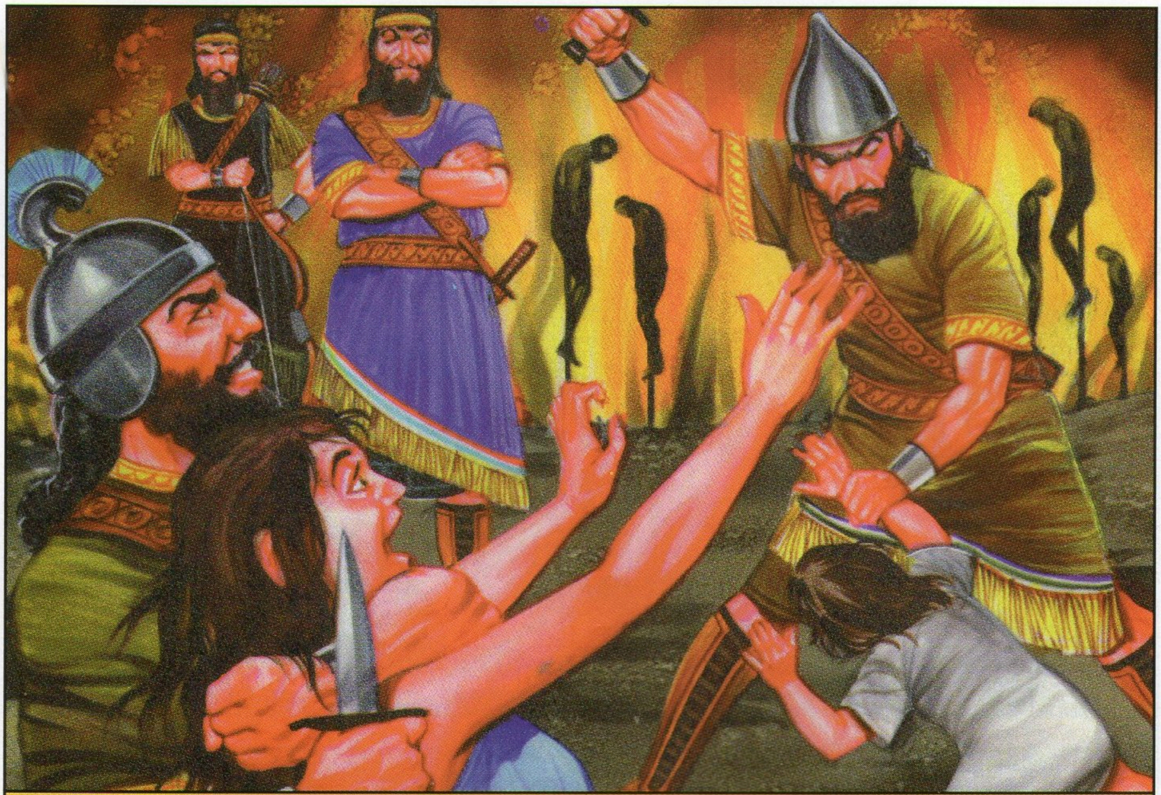

Mumsy, look at the ugly gentleman.

But Charlie wasn't the first man to survive after being swallowed by a giant fish...



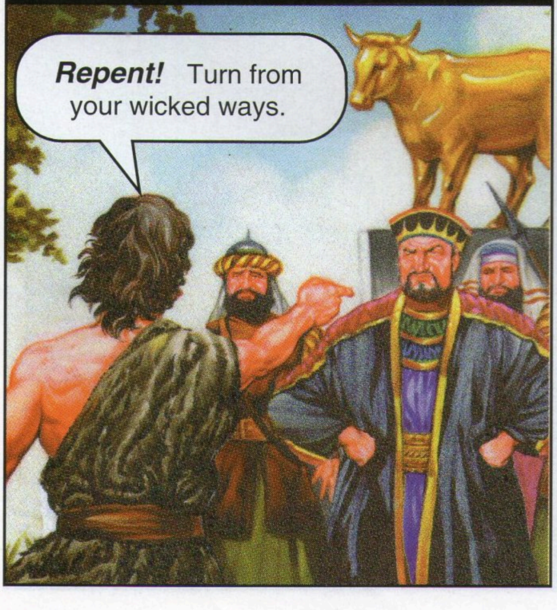
The first man was Jonah...

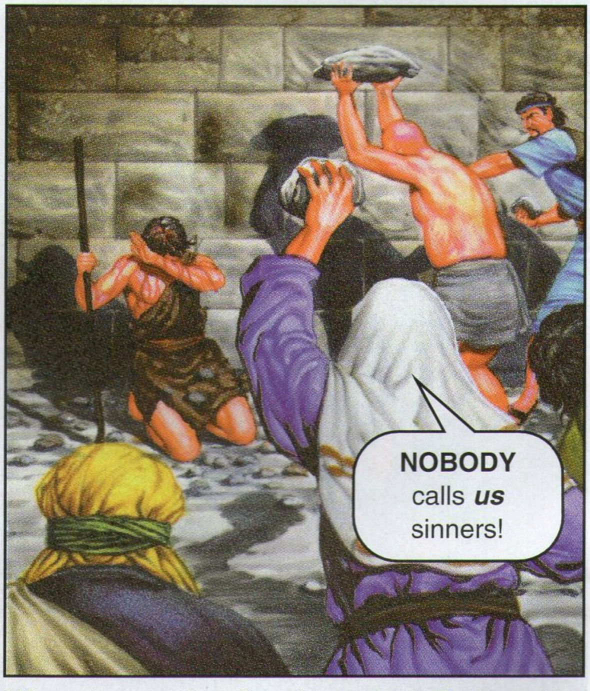
And this is his true story.



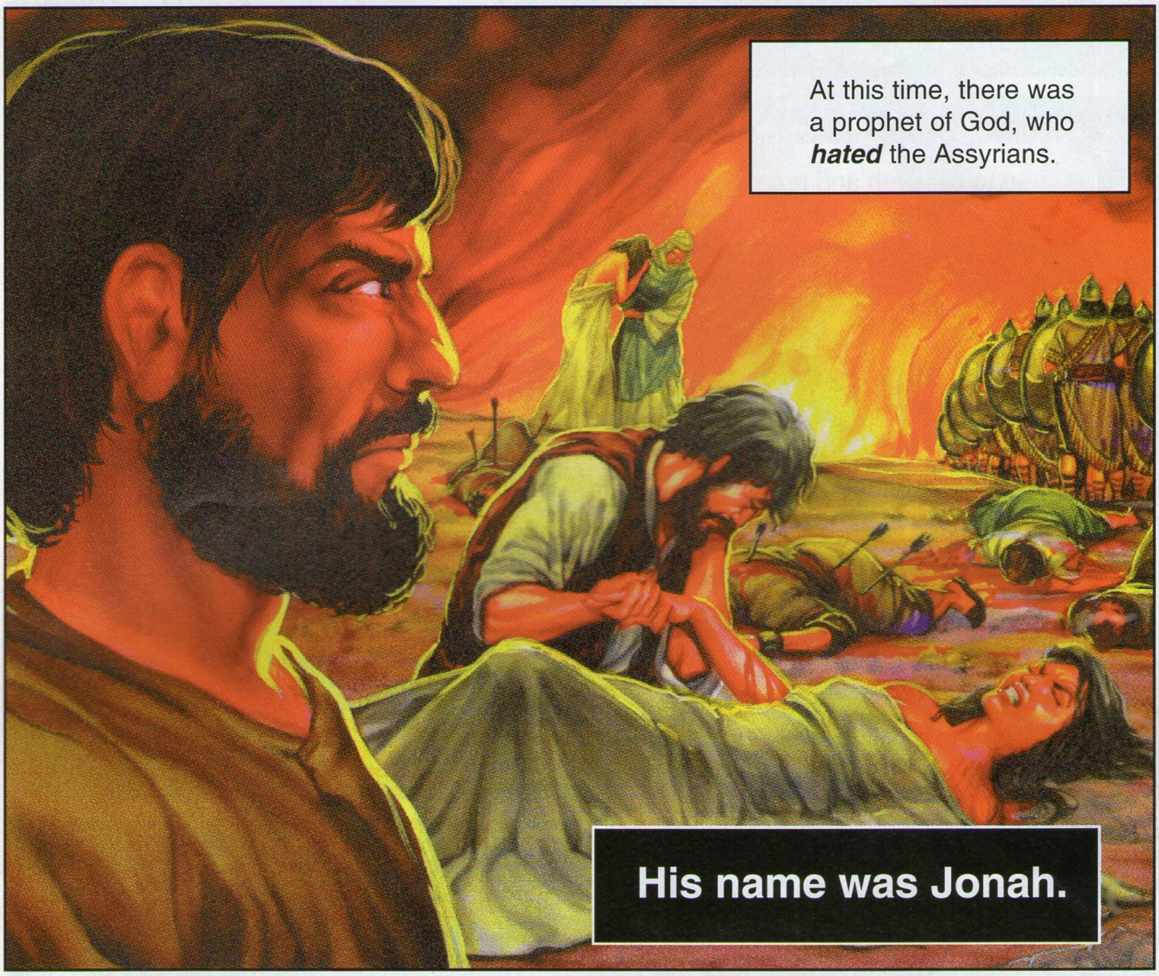
In 750 B.C., the ancient world was ruled by the Assyrians. They were a cruel and brutal people. The Children of Israel were living under the Assyrian reign of terror because they had sinned against God.

Whenever Israel sinned, God sent prophets to warn the people and tell them to repent. Usually, the prophets were killed.


Repent! Turn from your wicked ways.


NOBODY calls ***us*** sinners!

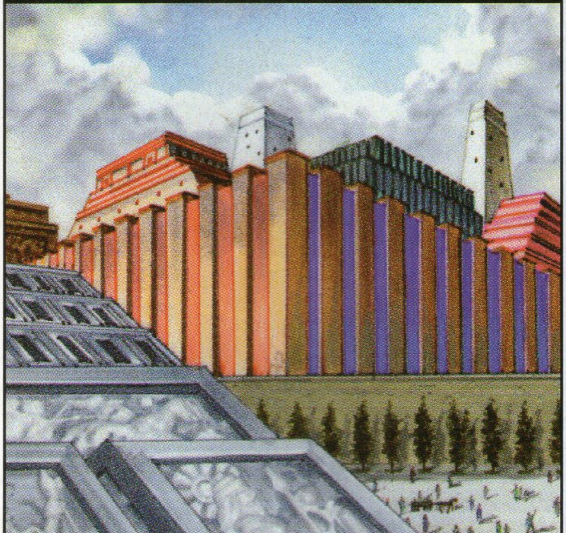
When the people refused to repent, God would allow them to fall into the hands of the enemy.



At this time, there was a prophet of God, who ***hated*** the Assyrians.

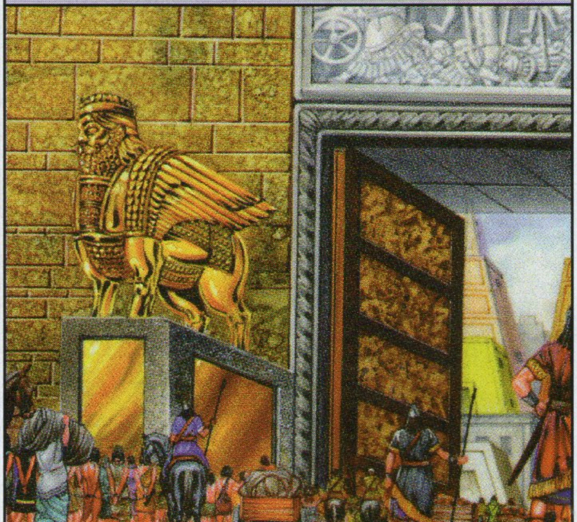
His name was Jonah.

The Assyrian's capital city was Nineveh. It was the most evil city on earth.



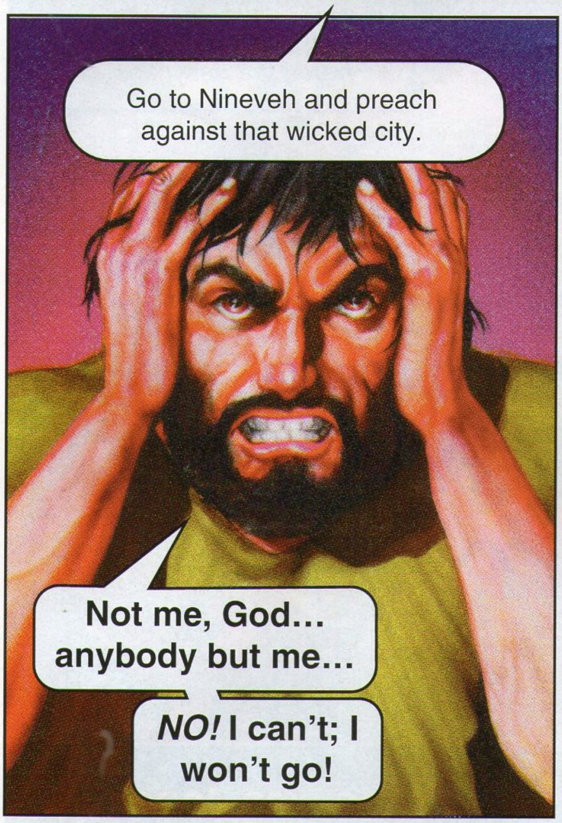
They sacrificed their children to their gods of wood and stone.

Because of their terrible wickedness, God had marked Nineveh for judgment.

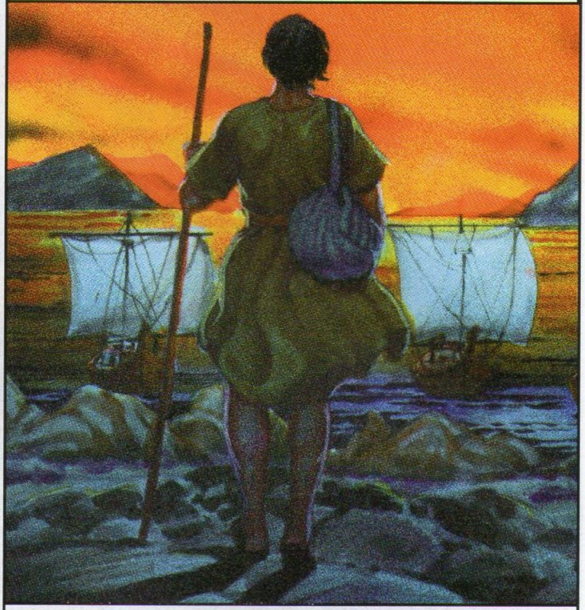


But first he must send someone to warn them. Guess who God picked for the job.

Because God loved those people, he sent Jonah with a message…

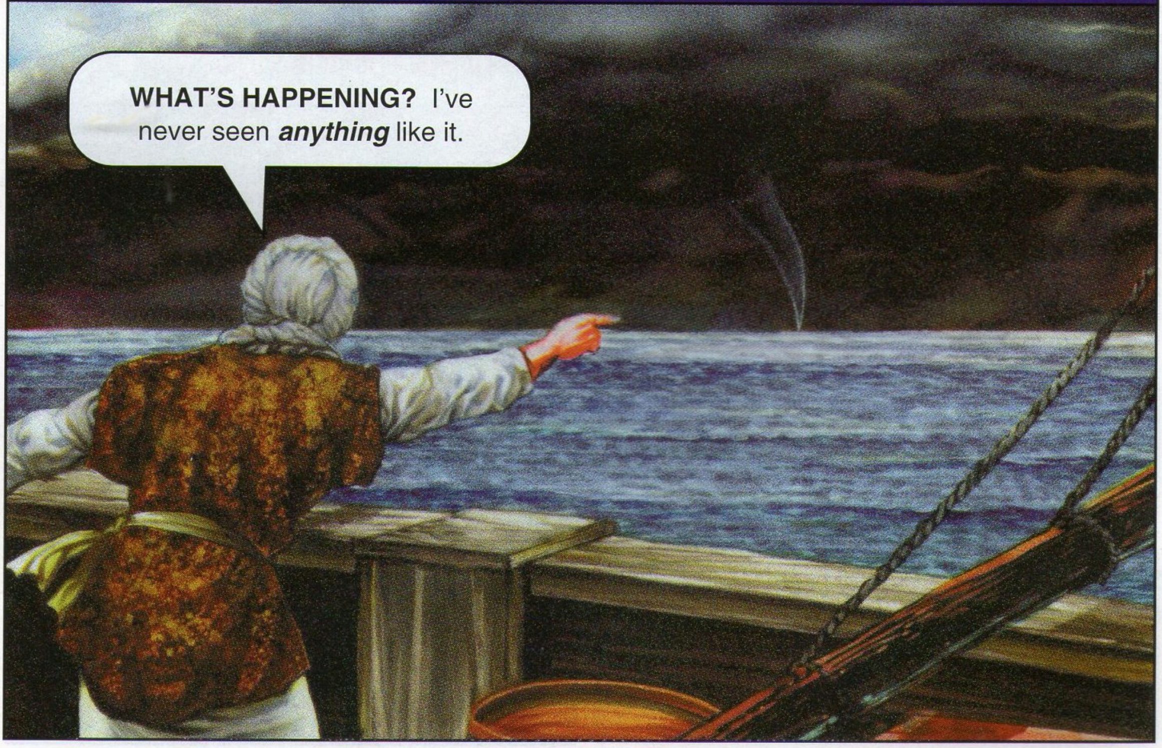

Go to Nineveh and preach against that wicked city.
Not me, God… anybody but me…
NO! I can't; I won't go!

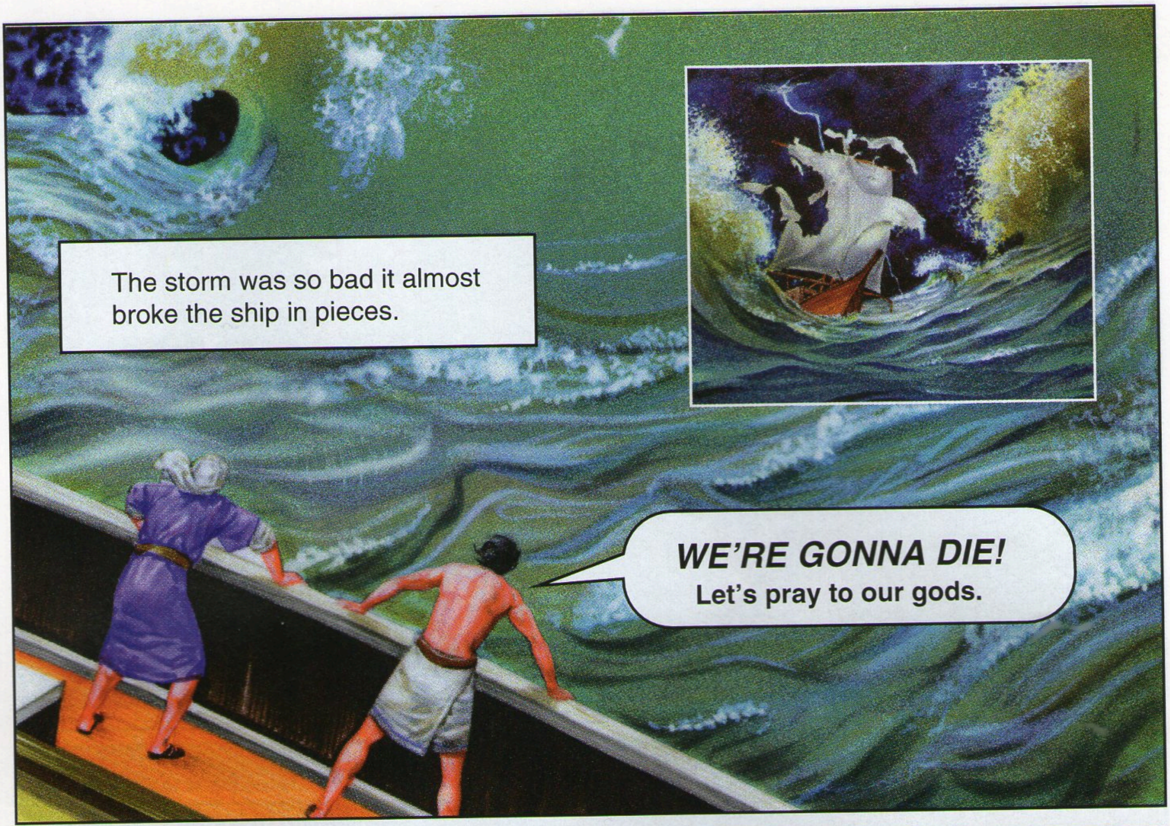
Jonah ran away and got on a ship heading away from Nineveh.

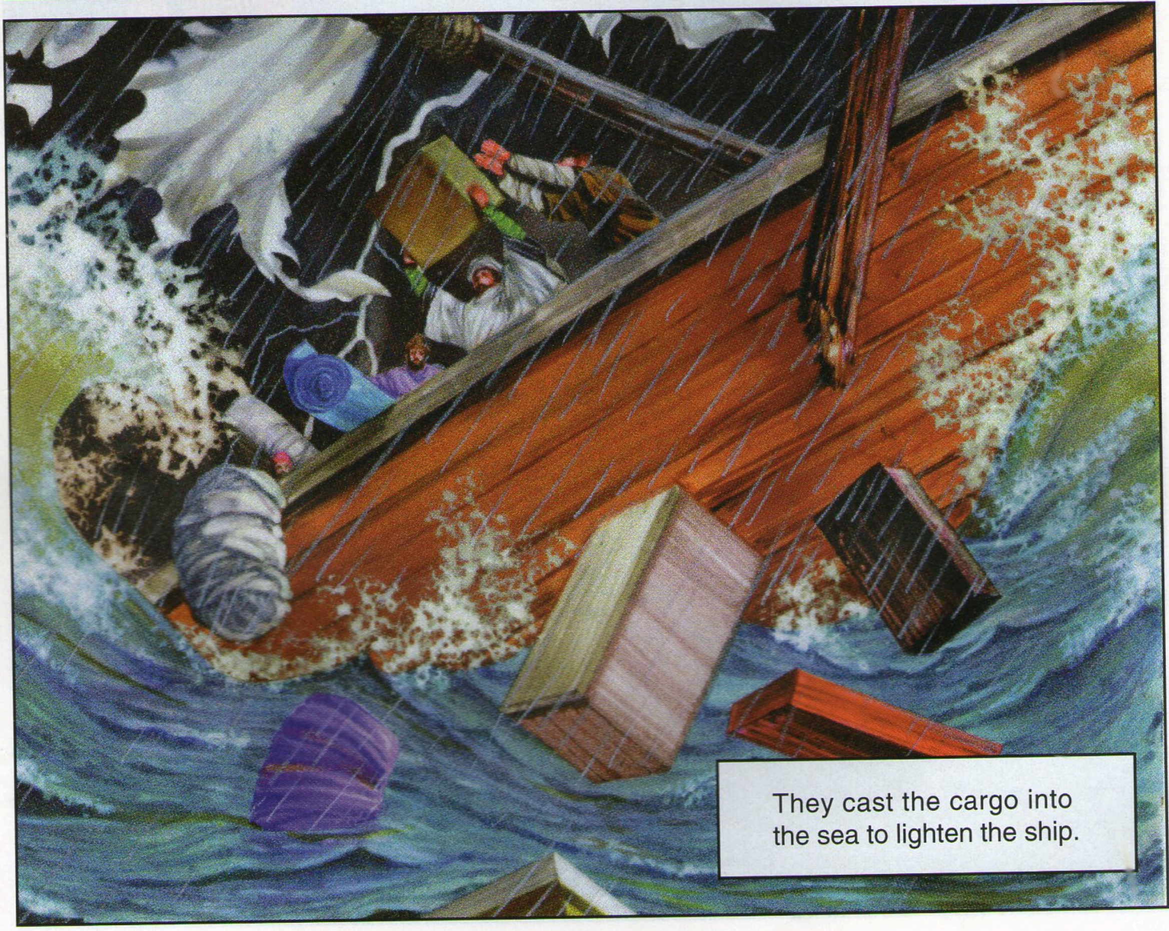


God wasn't going to put up with Jonah's rebellion… watch what the Lord did.

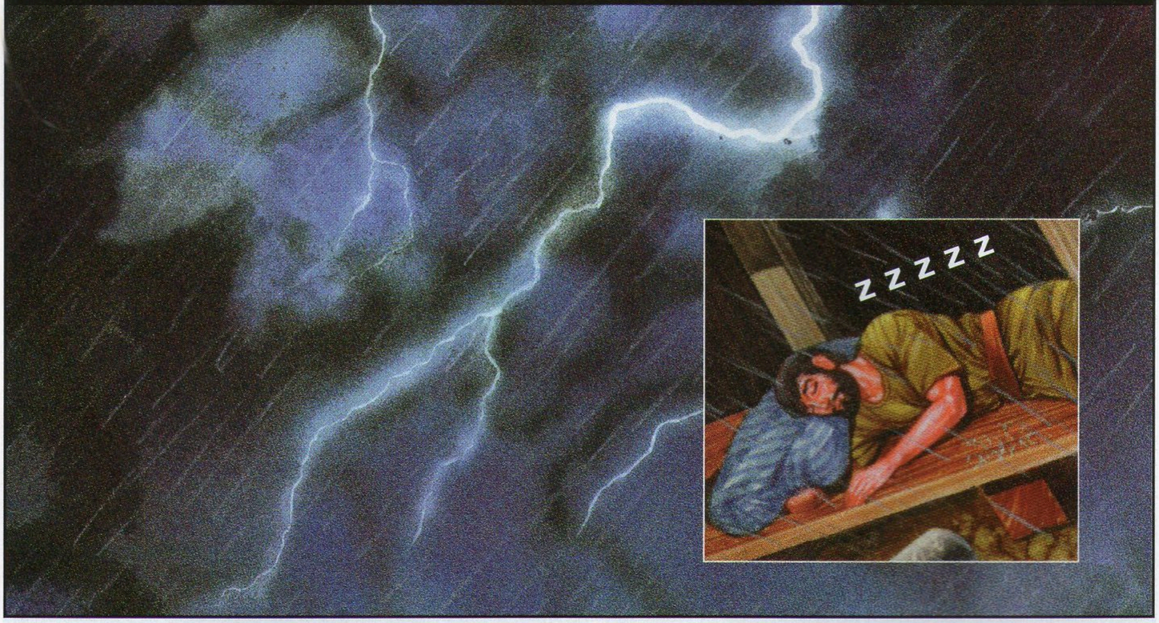
Once on board the ship, God sent a mighty storm to block Jonah's escape.


WHAT'S HAPPENING? I've never seen ***anything*** like it.

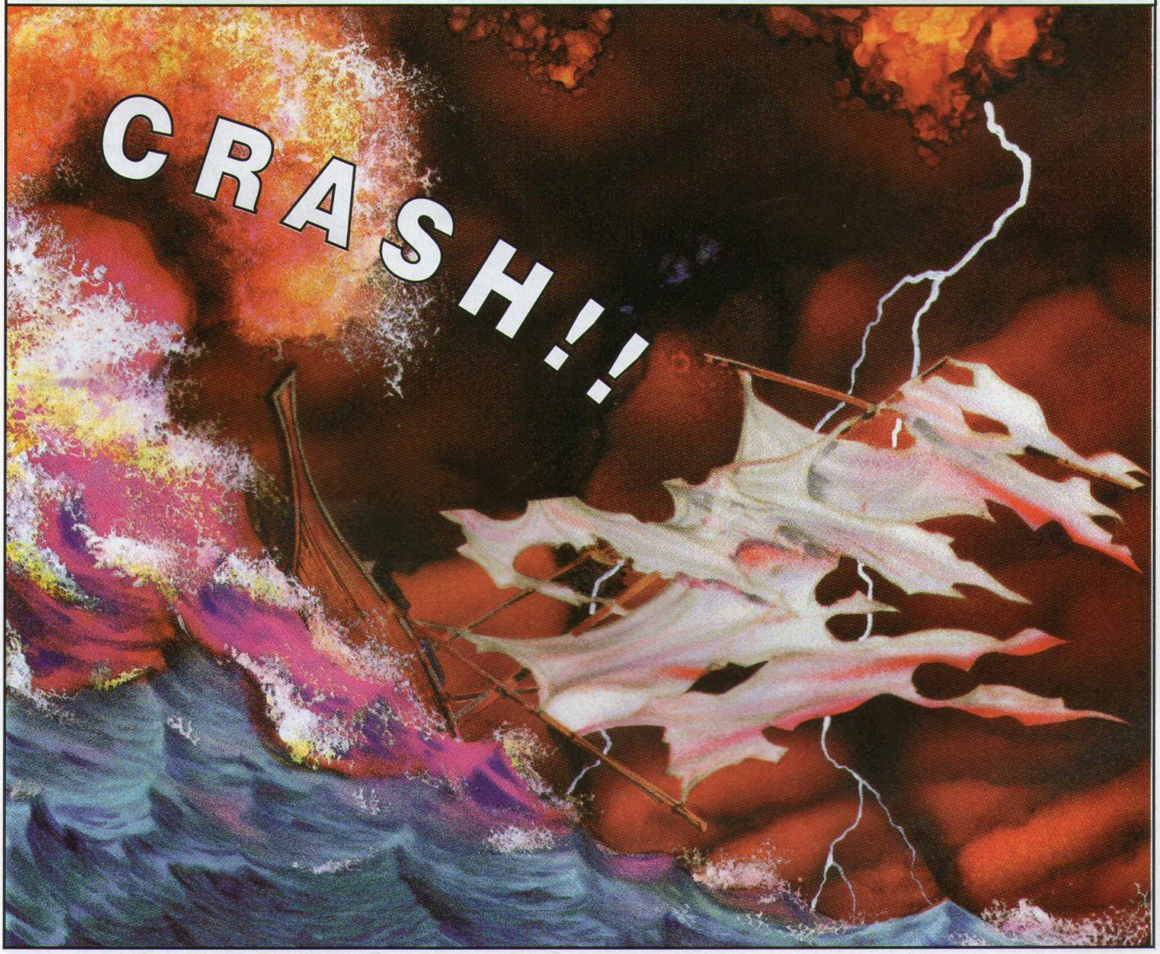

The storm was so bad it almost broke the ship in pieces.
WE'RE GONNA DIE! **Let's pray to our gods.**

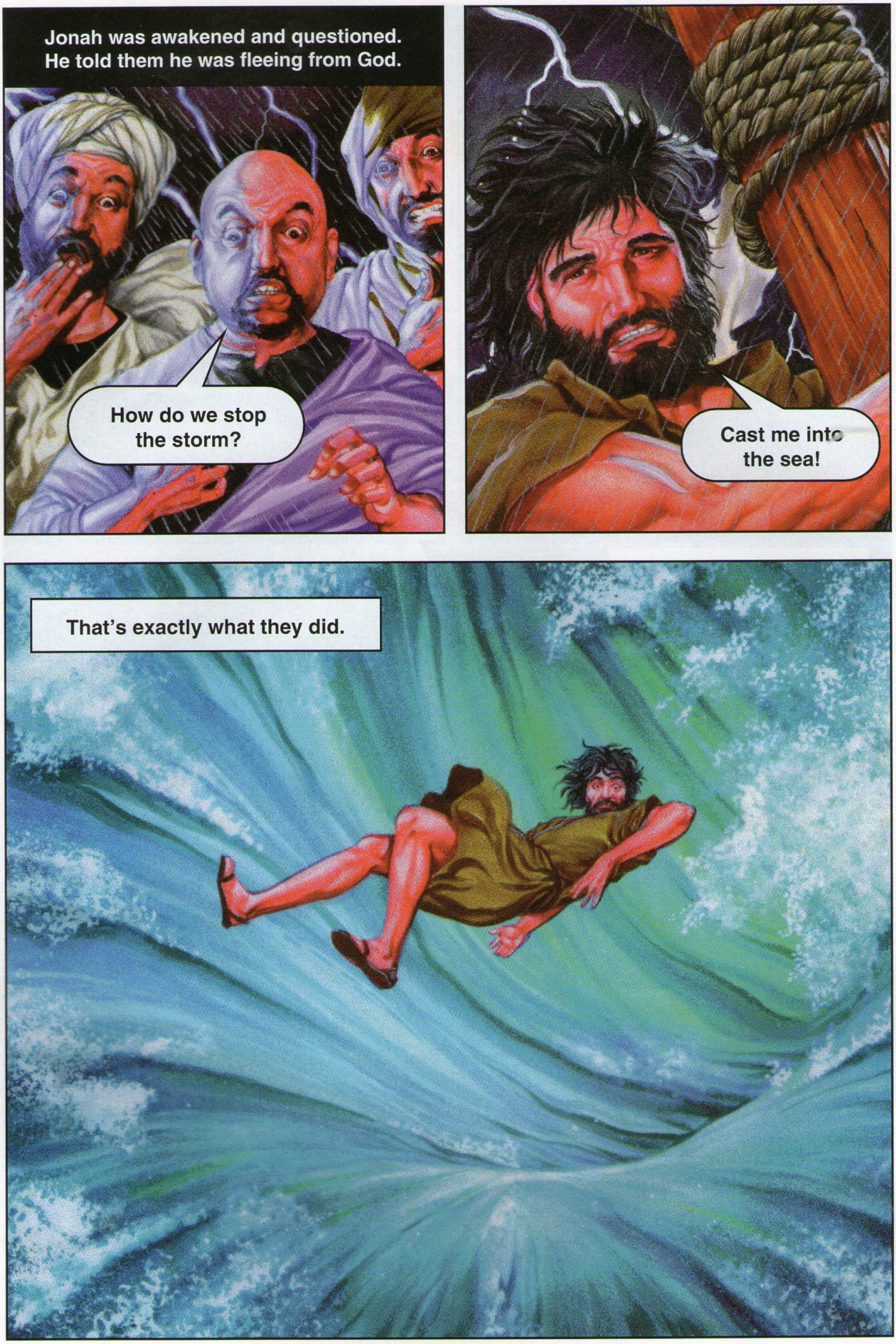

They cast the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

While the storm raged, Jonah was down below, sound asleep.

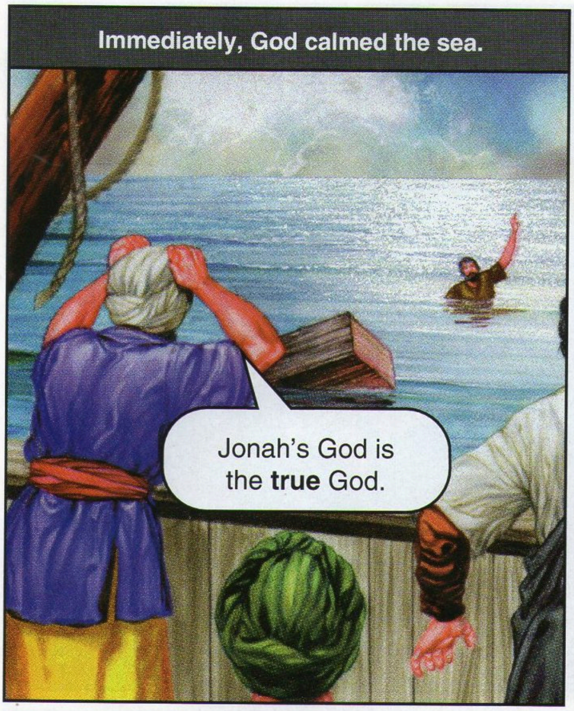


This storm was a nightmare and the sailors were scared to death.

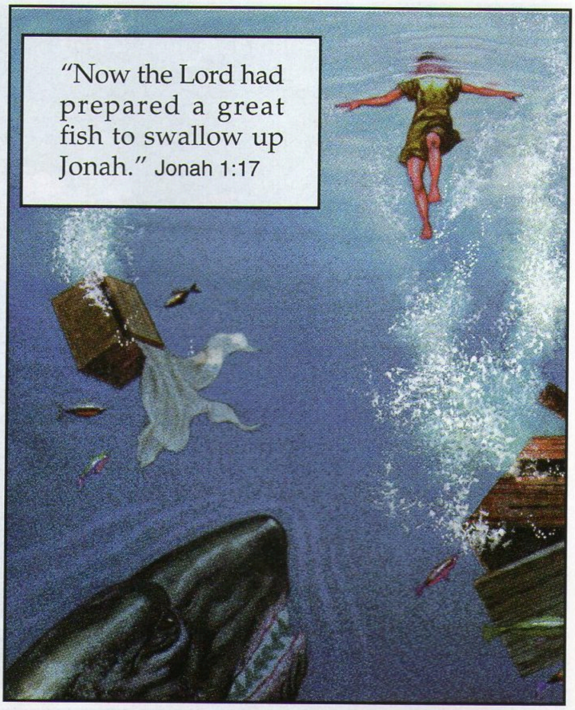


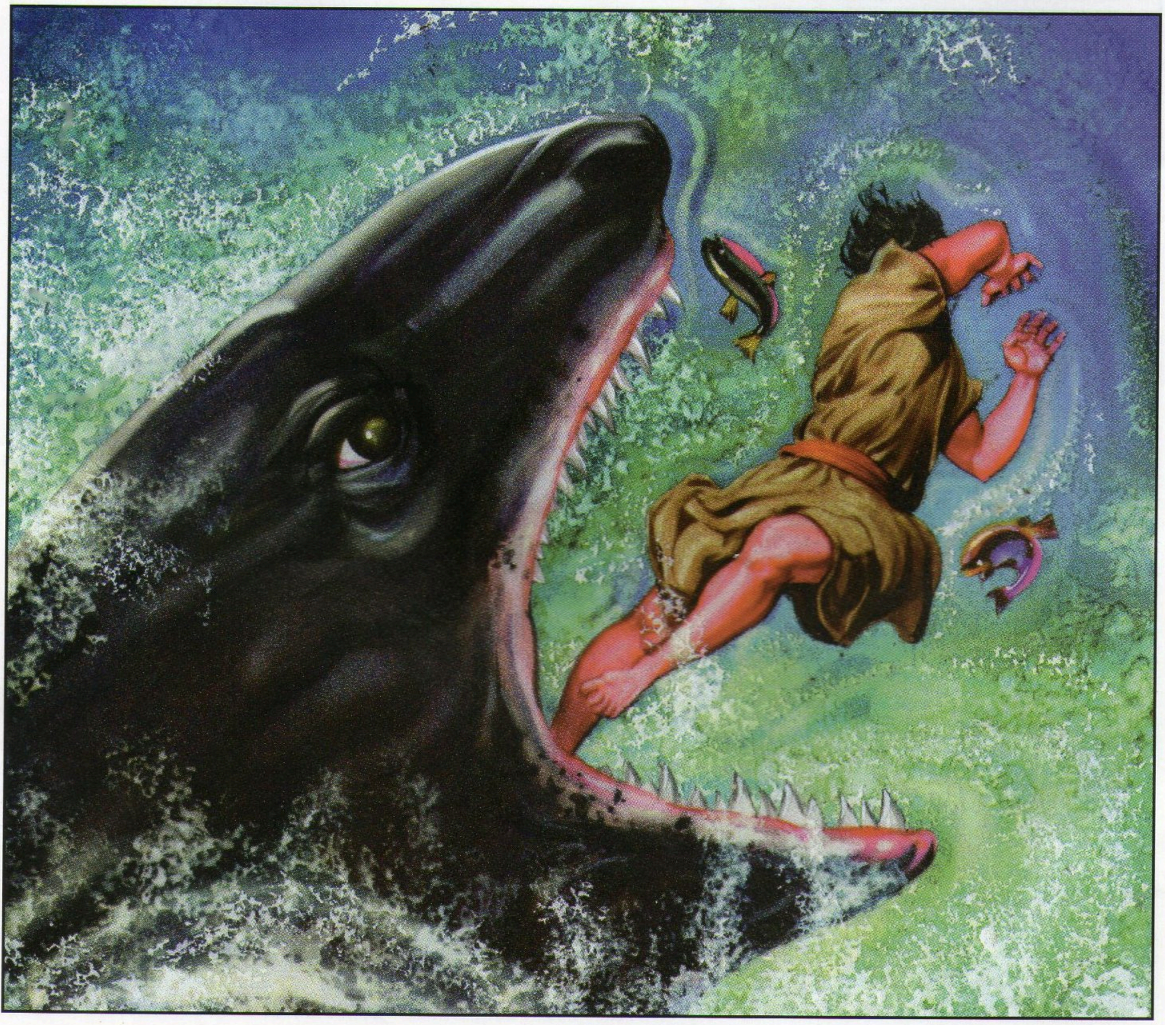

Jonah was awakened and questioned.
He told them he was fleeing from God.
How do we stop the storm?
Cast me into the sea!
That's exactly what they did.

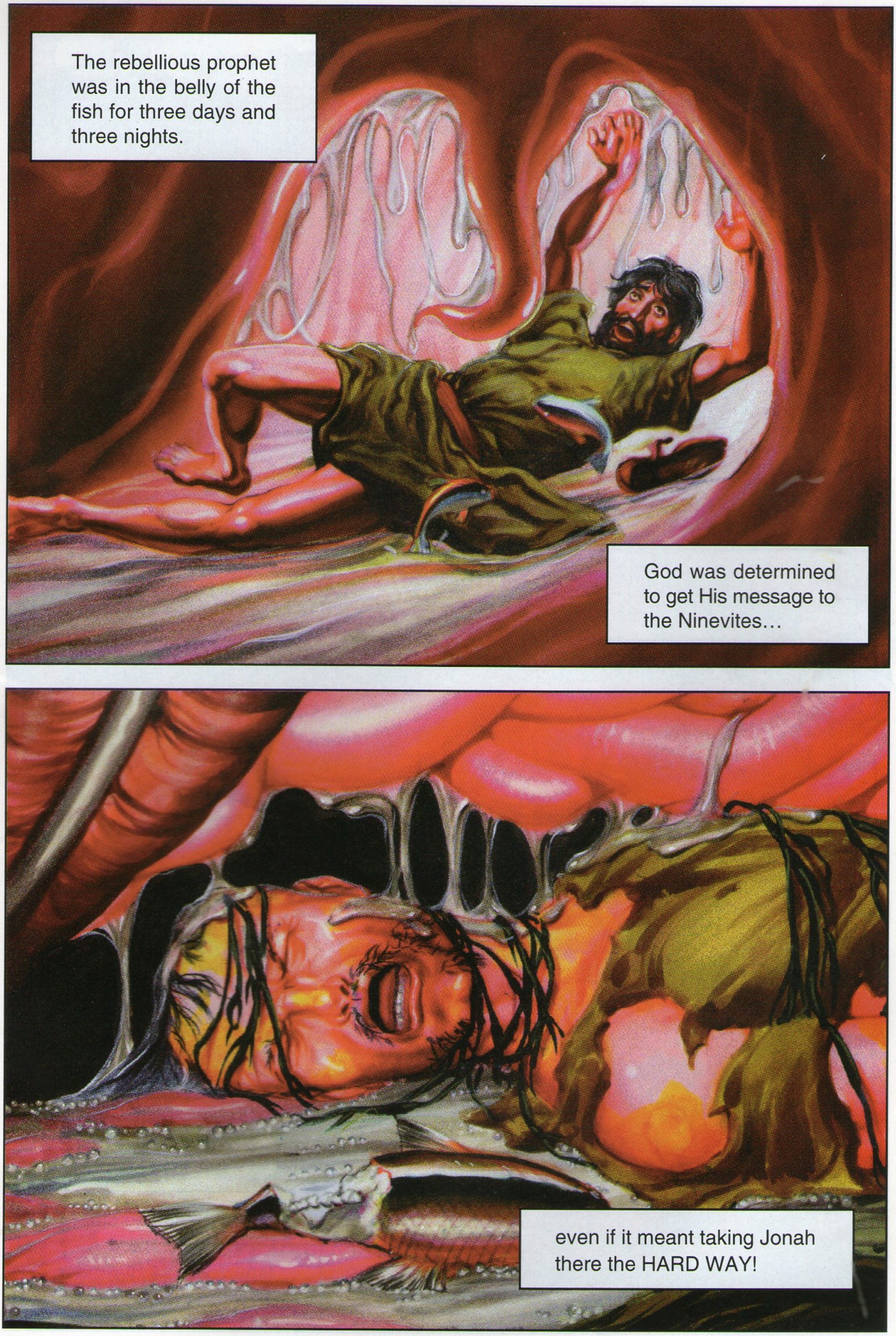
Immediately, God calmed the sea.


Jonah's God is the **true** God.

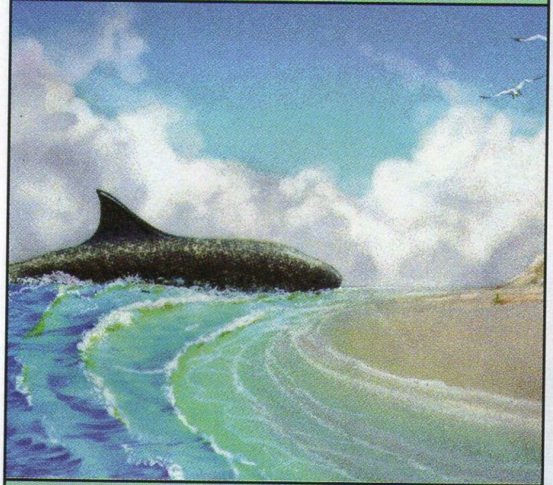
"Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah." Jonah 1:17



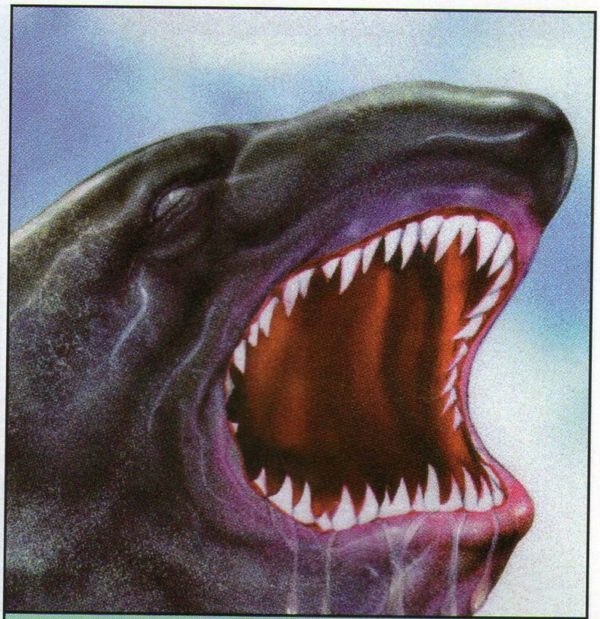



The rebellious prophet was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.
God was determined to get His message to the Ninevites…
even if it meant taking Jonah there the HARD WAY!

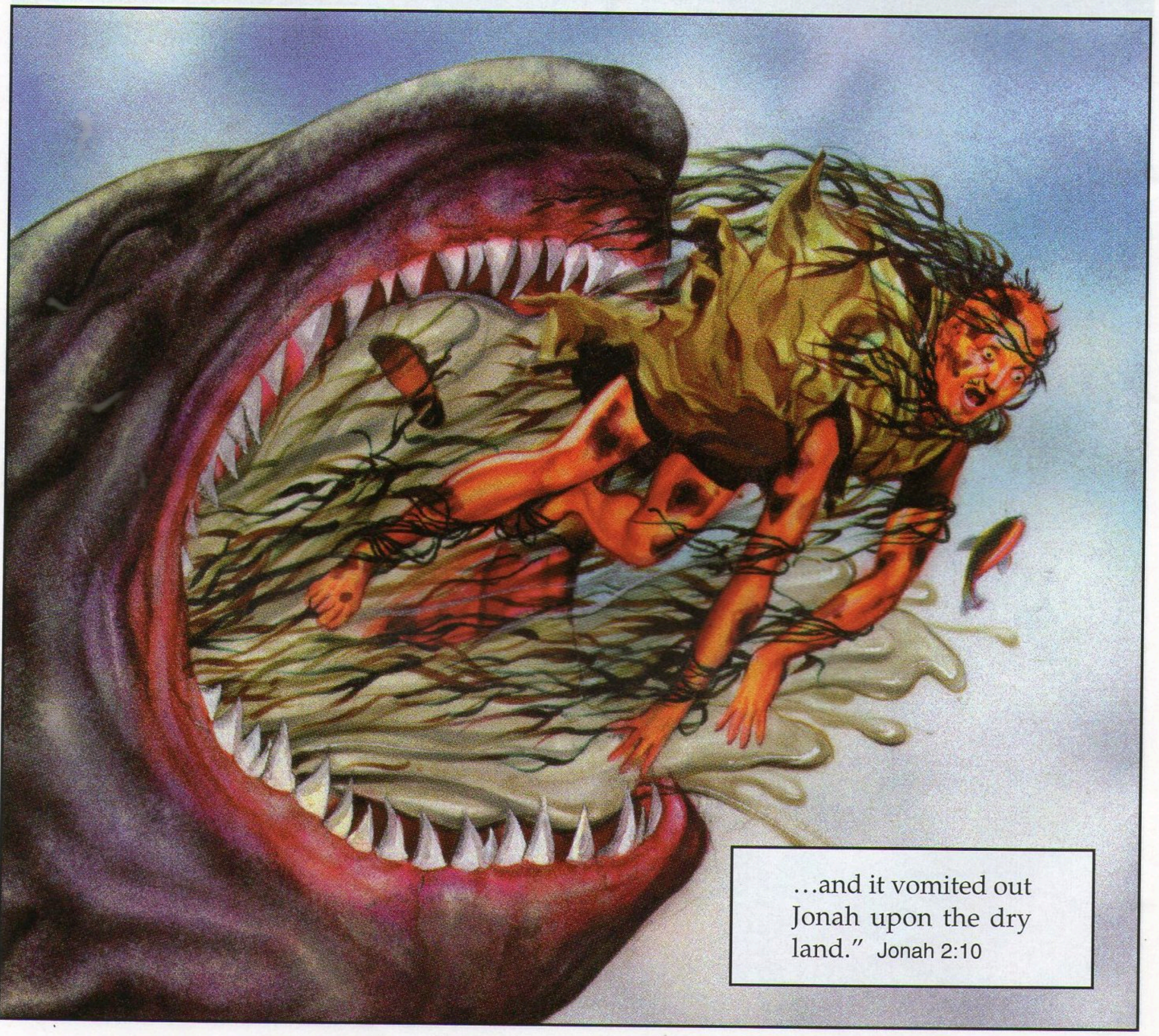
It took three horrible days in the slimy darkness for Jonah to repent.



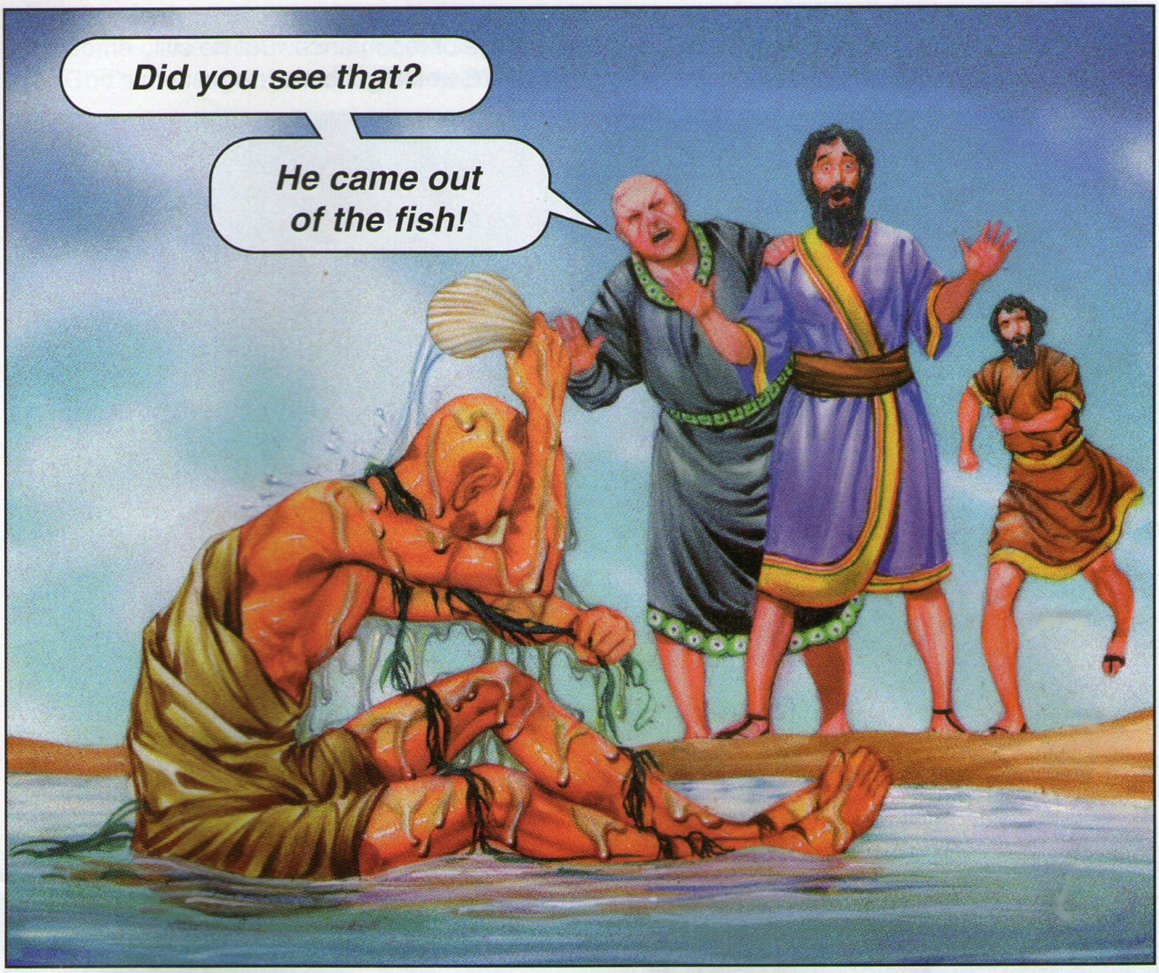
By that time the great fish had come to it's destination to deliver Jonah.

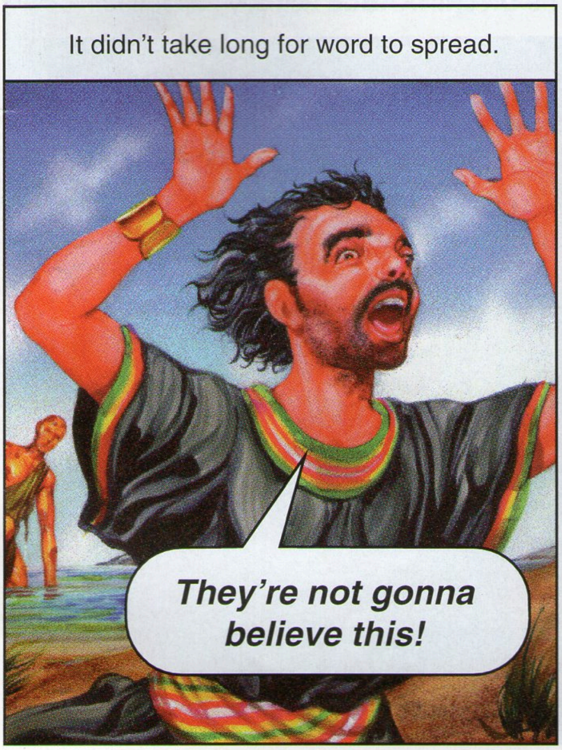


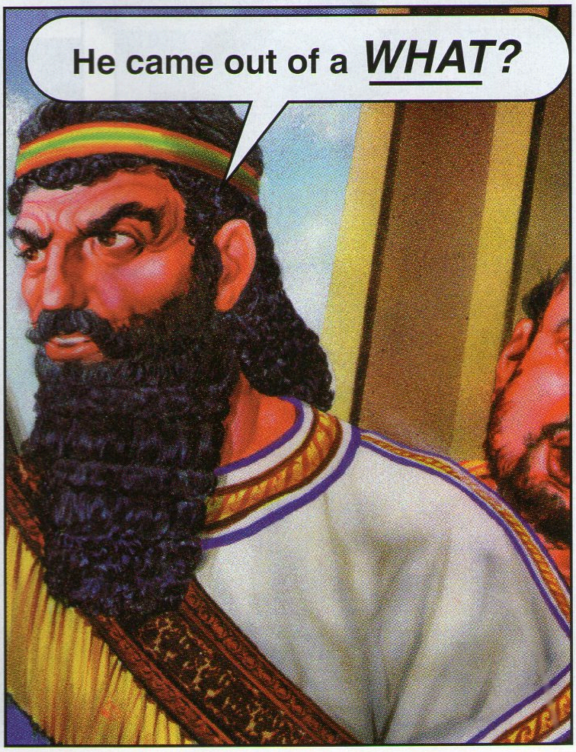
"And the Lord spake unto the fish…



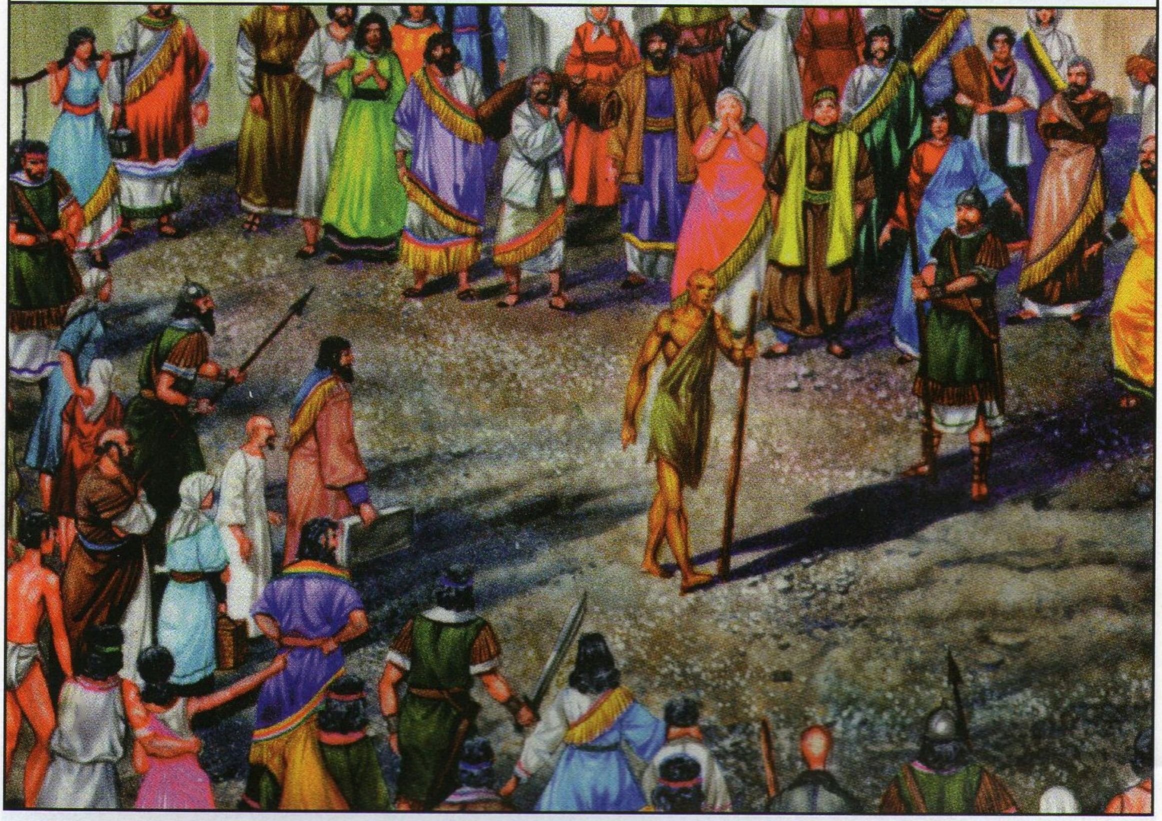
…and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." Jonah 2:10


Did you see that?
He came out of the fish!

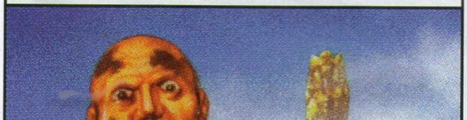

It didn't take long for word to spread.
They're not gonna believe this!


He came out of a WHAT?

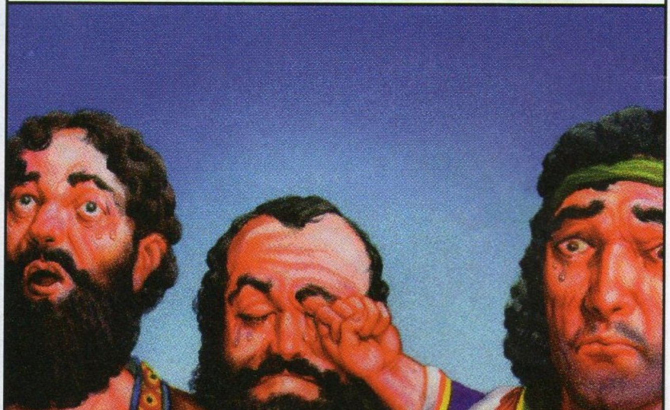
Jonah was now ready to deliver the message of repentance. But he still hated these people and prayed that ***NO ONE*** would get converted.



Jonah began to preach.

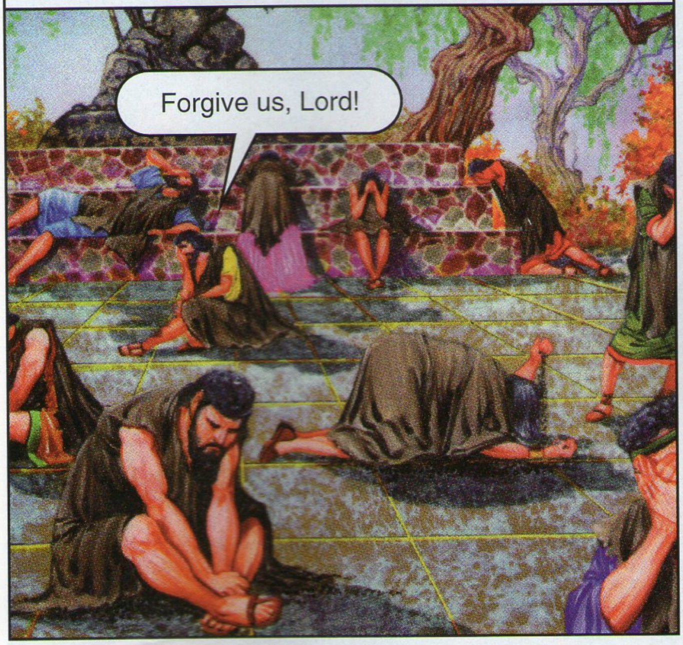

"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"*
*Jonah 3:4

The **UNTHINKABLE** actually happened.

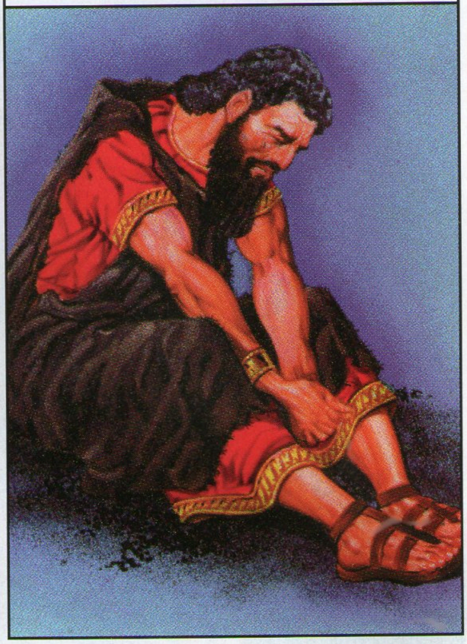


"...the people of Nineveh believed God..." Jonah 3:5

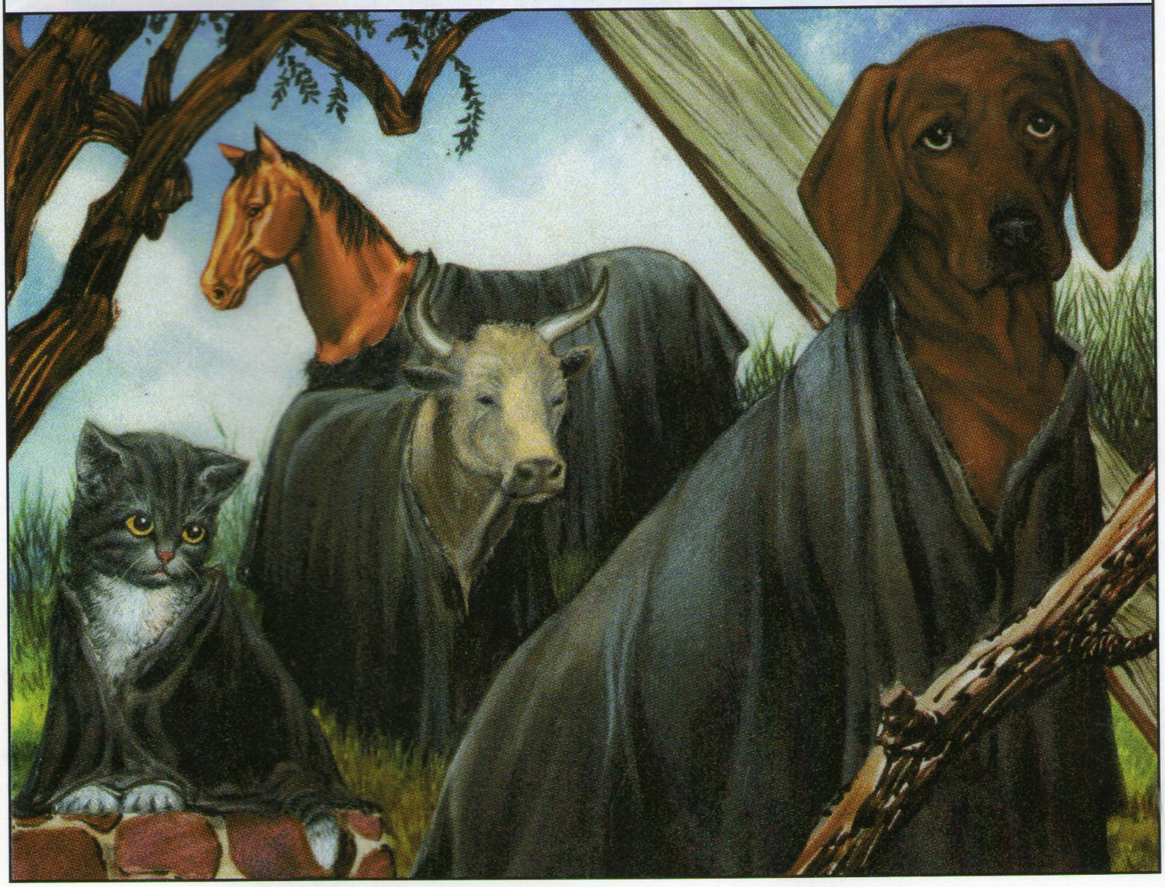
Some of the most wicked people on earth heard God's message… ***and they repented!***


Forgive us, Lord!

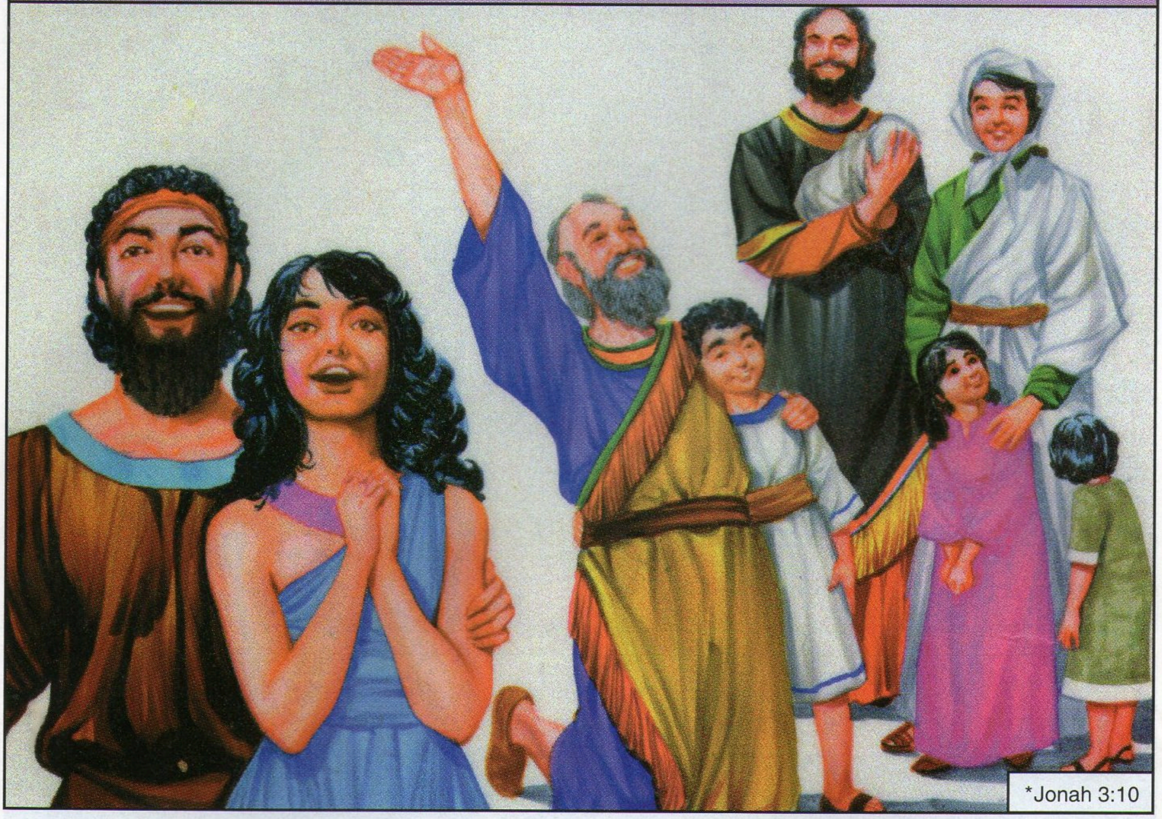
Even the king covered himself in sackcloth and sat in ashes.



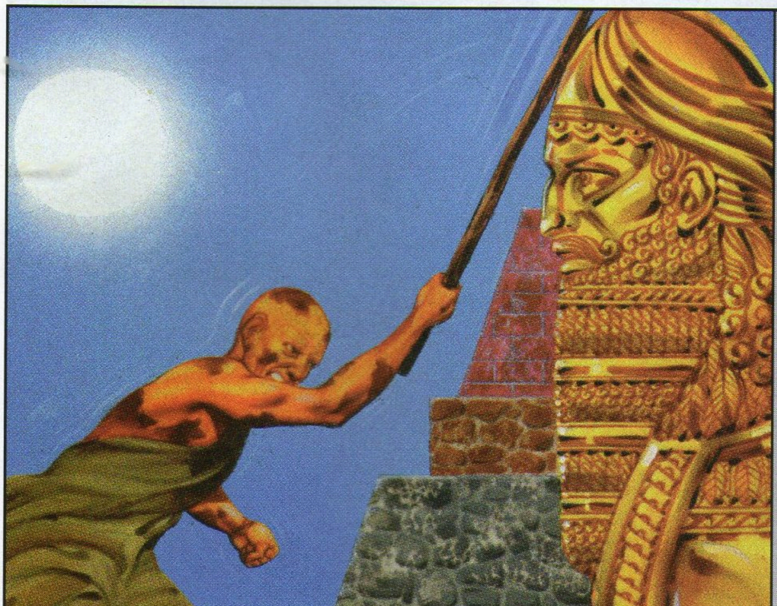
The entire city turned to God from their wicked ways. It was the greatest revival in history. Even the animals were covered in sackcloth.



"And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."



*Jonah 3:10



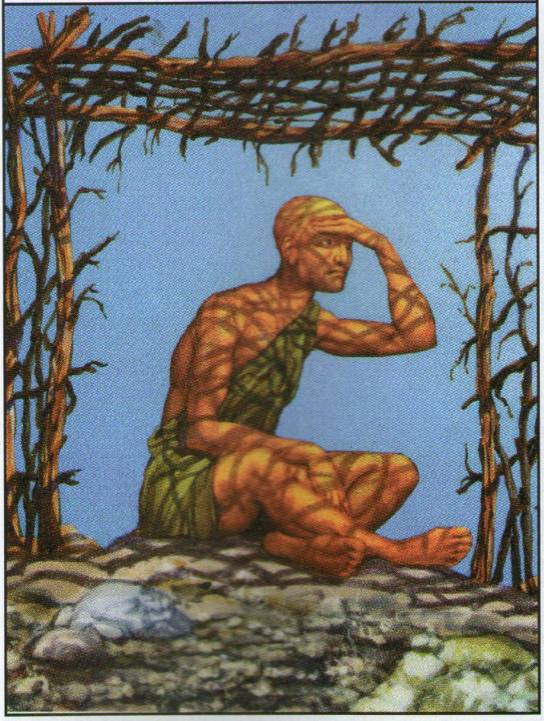
Jonah was furious!

He knew that God was merciful… and would forgive these people if they repented.

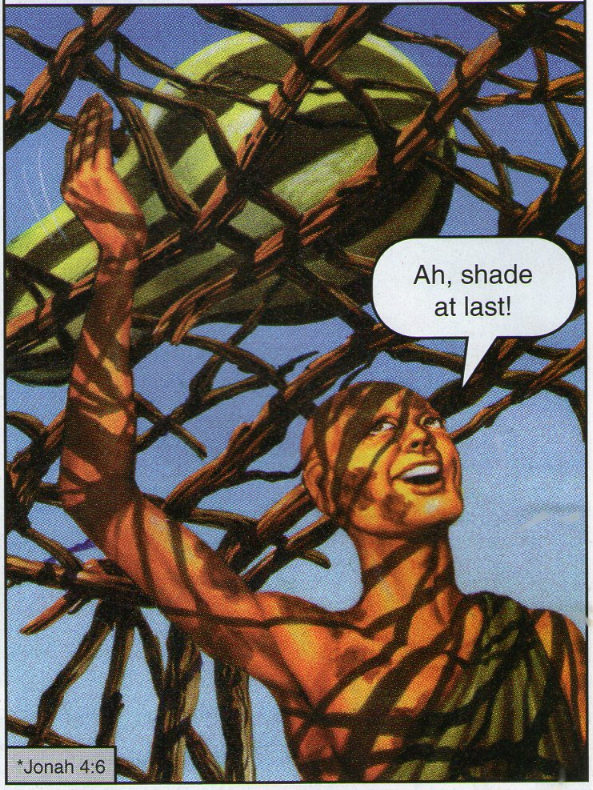
He got so mad at what had happened that he asked God to take his life.

Then he left the city to see what God might do. He was still hoping that God would destroy the city.

Because it was so hot, Jonah made a booth.

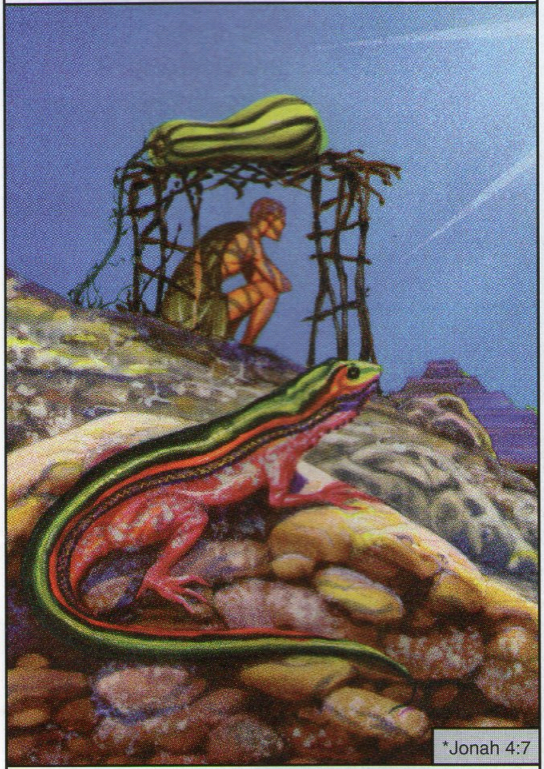


“And the Lord prepared a gourd, and made it come up over Jonah…”*


Ah, shade at last!

*Jonah 4:6

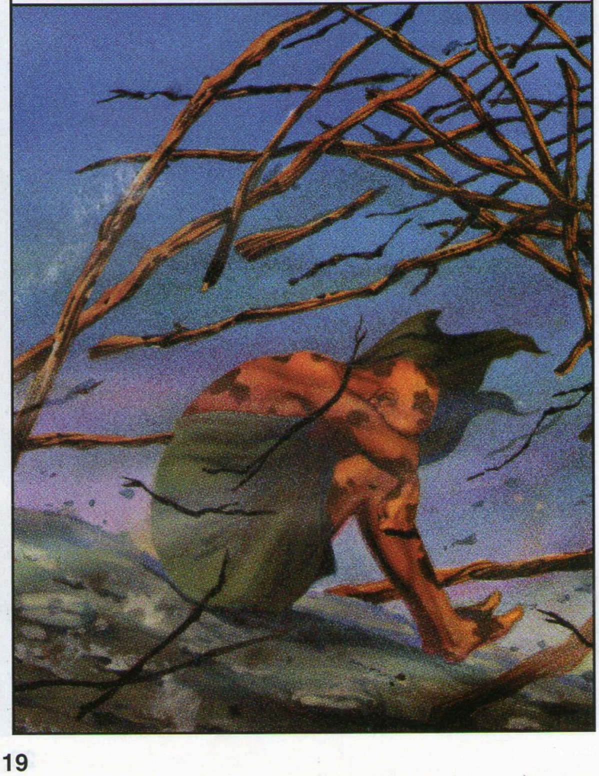
“God prepared a worm… and it smote (killed) the gourd that it withered.”*



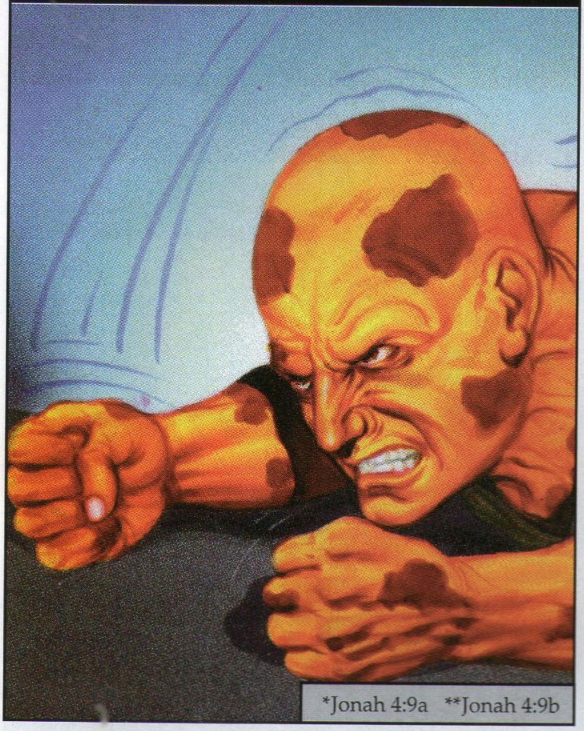
*Jonah 4:7

When the gourd died, Jonah was crushed.

Then a strong wind blew everything away. This was the last straw.

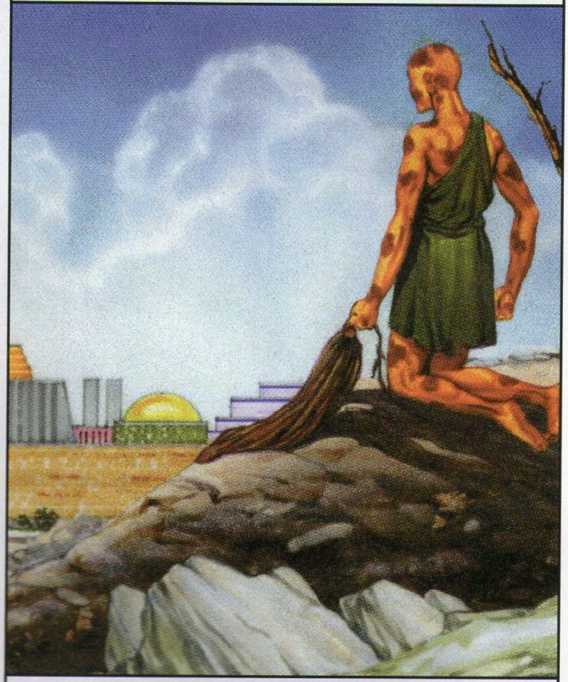


"And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd?"*



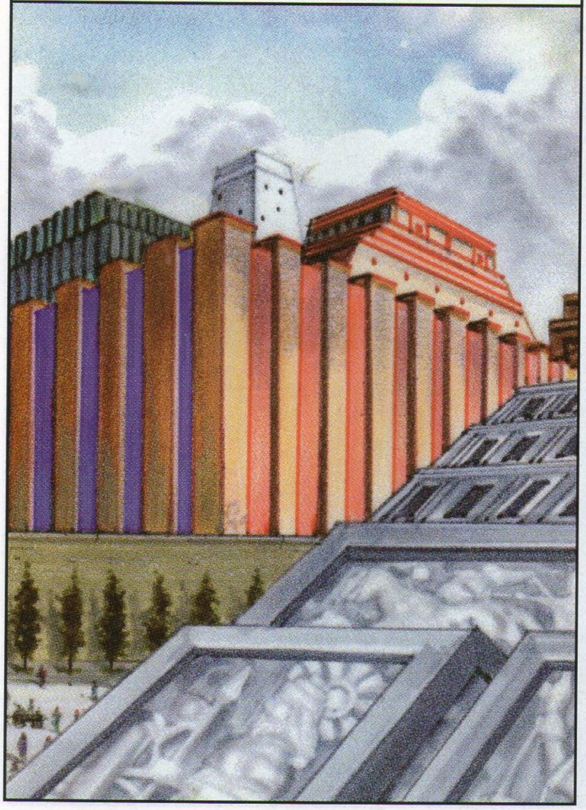
*Jonah 4:9a **Jonah 4:9b

God pointed out that Jonah had pity on a gourd, but not on the people of Nineveh.

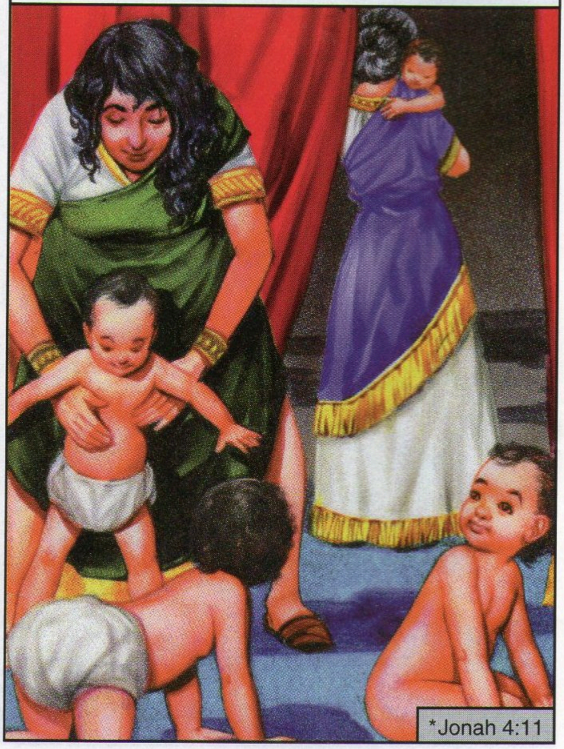


Then God asked Jonah this question…

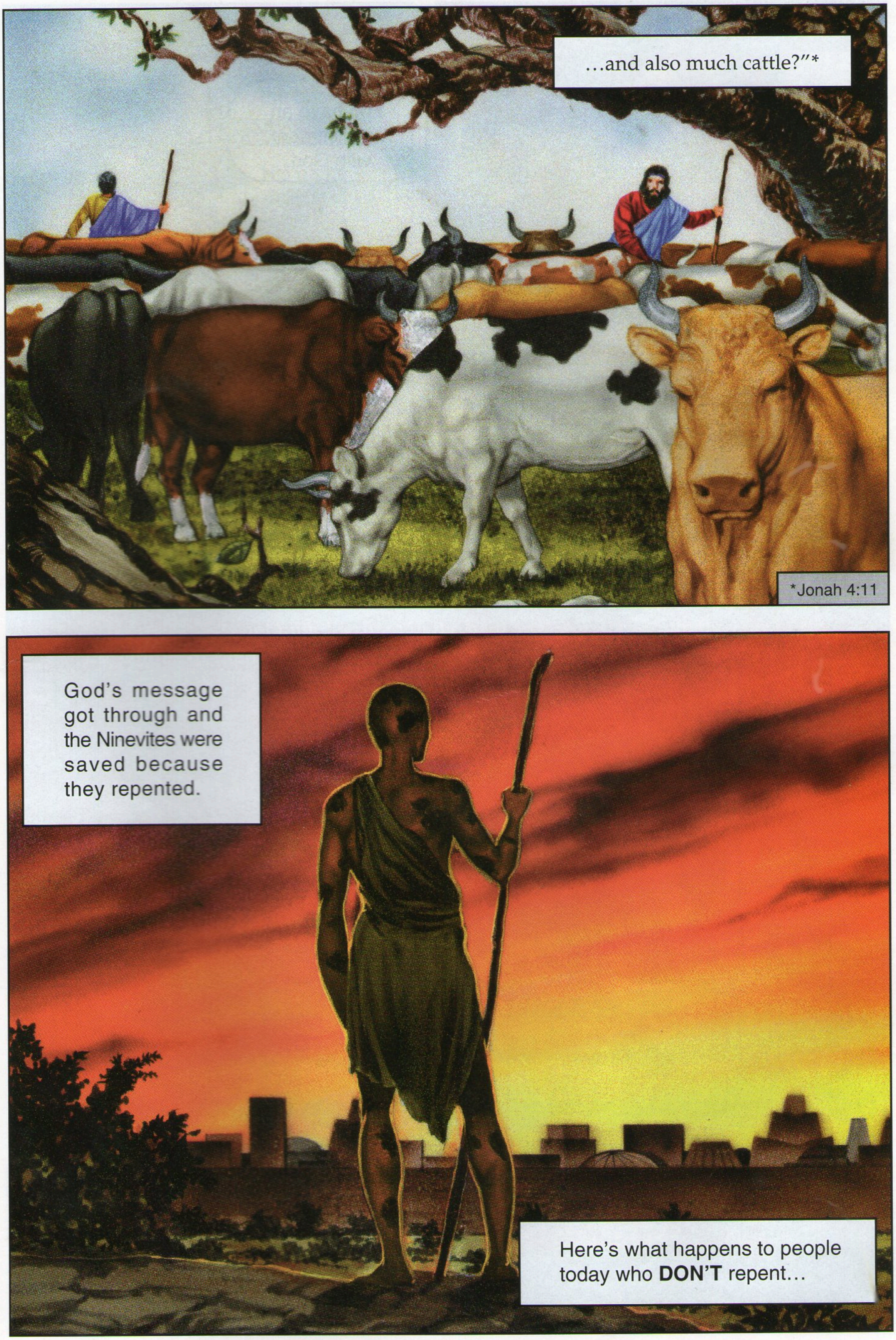
"Should not I spare Nineveh, that great city…

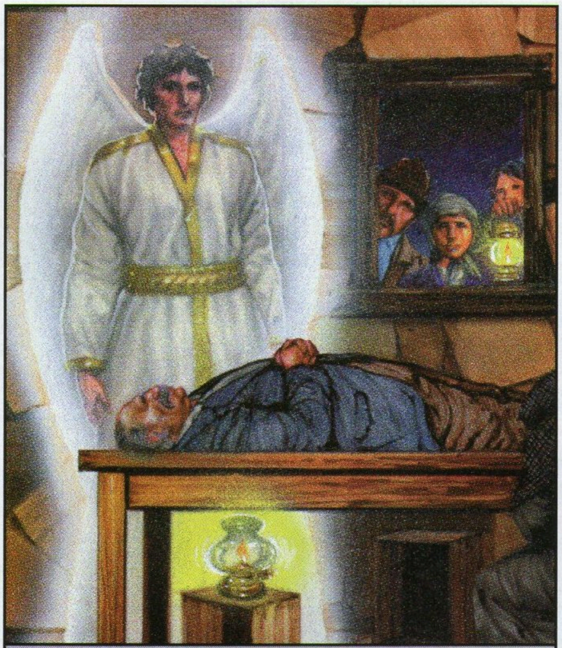


…wherein are more than sixscore thousand (120,000) persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand;"*

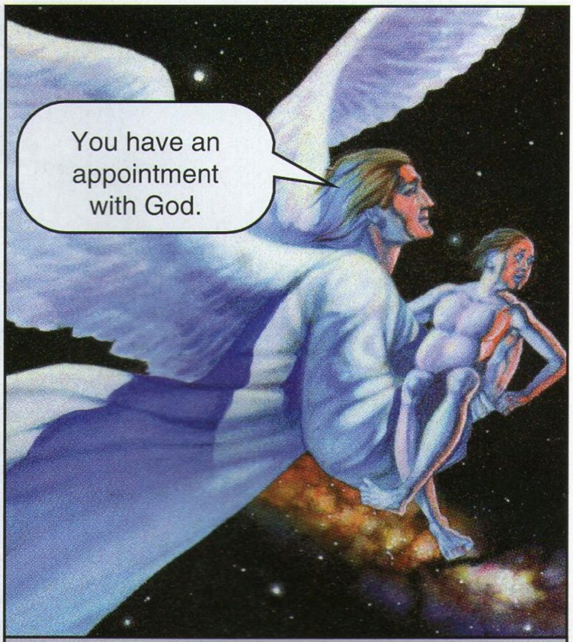


*Jonah 4:11

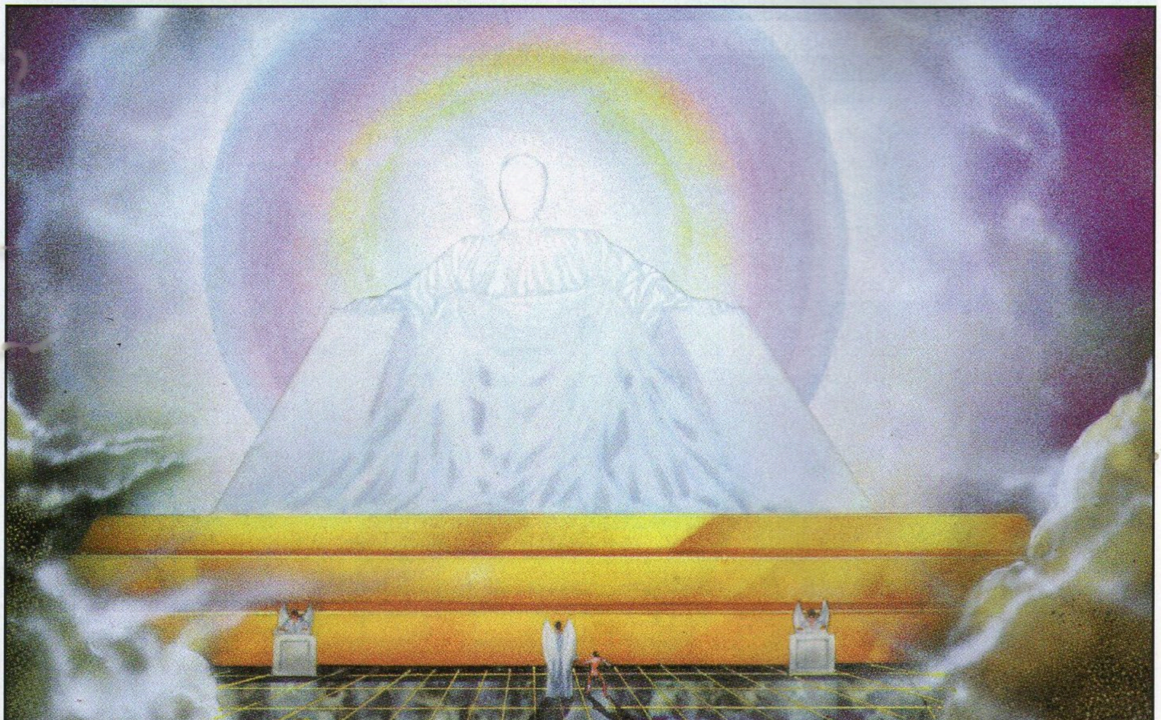

…and also much cattle?"*
*Jonah 4:11
God's message got through and the Ninevites were saved because they repented.
Here's what happens to people today who **DON'T** repent…



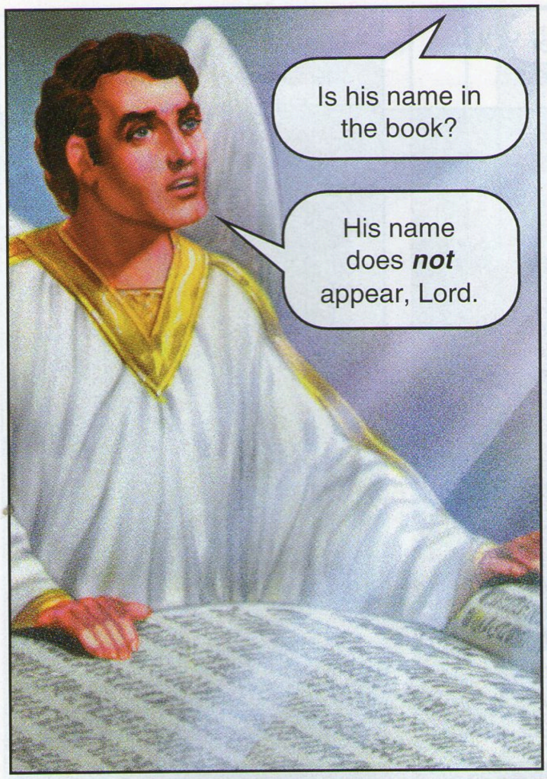
This man died in his sins. He rejected the message of repentance.


You have an appointment with God.

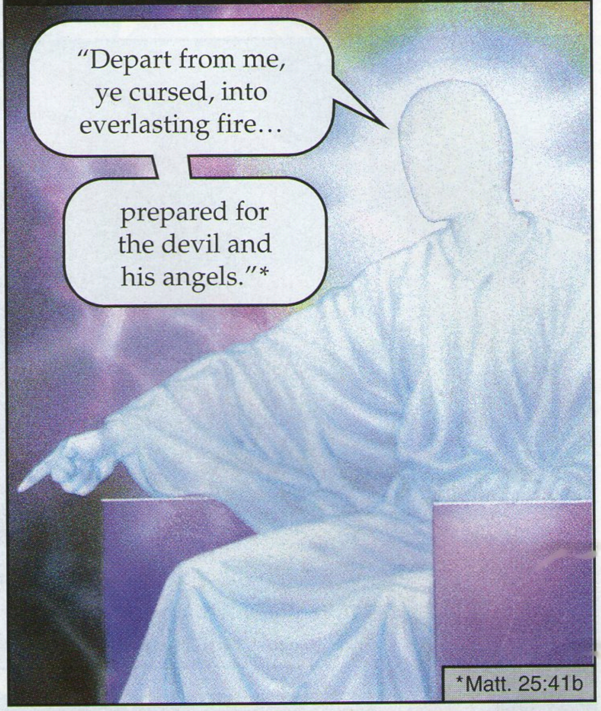
"…it is appointed unto men **ONCE** to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27



"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life." Rev. 20:12

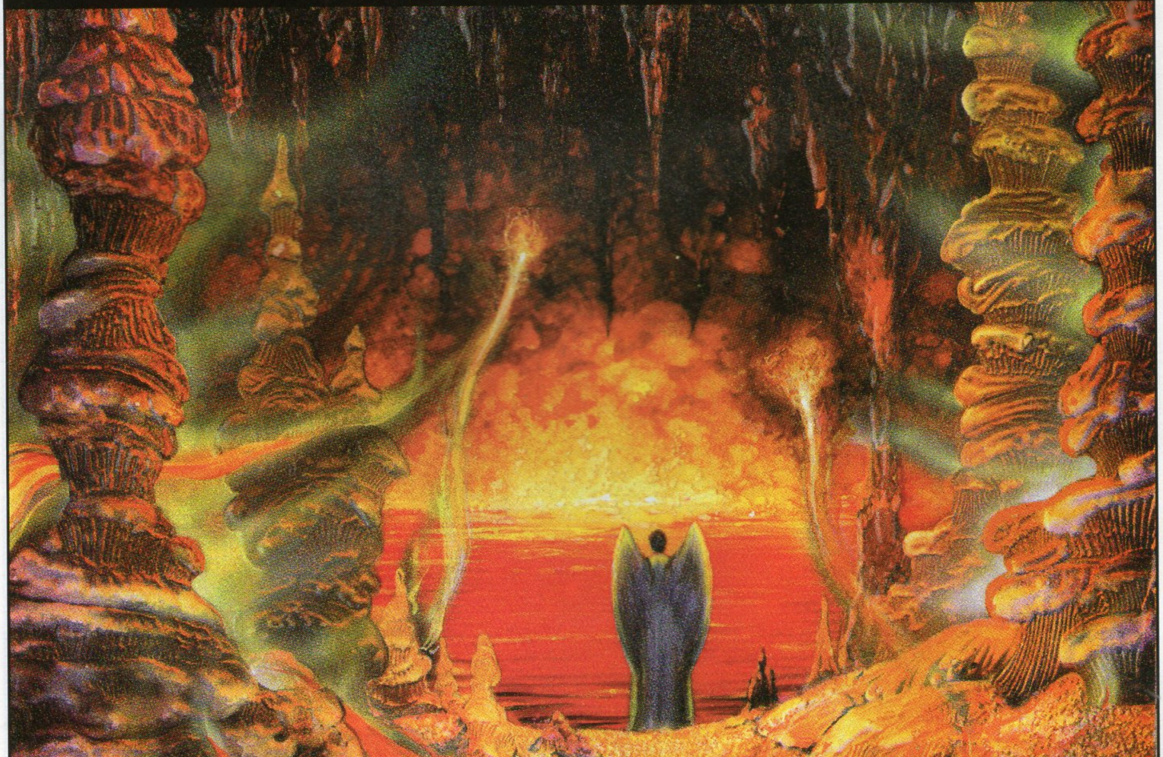

Is his name in the book?
His name does ***not*** appear, Lord.

Then he heard these horrible words.


"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire…
prepared for the devil and his angels."*

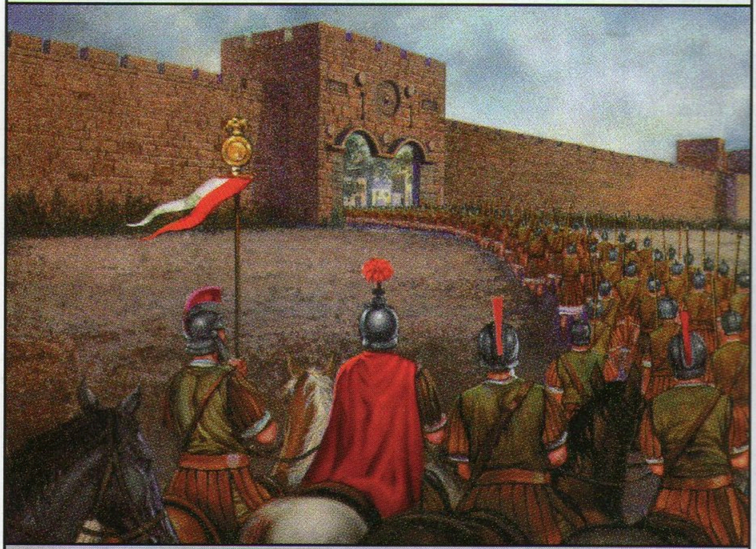
*Matt. 25:41b

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*
"And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever."** *Rev. 20:15 **Rev. 14:11



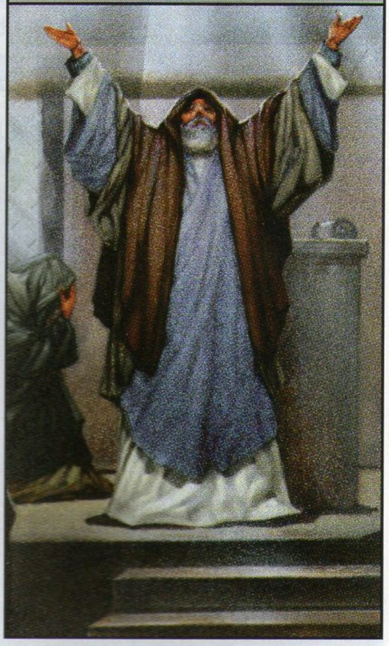
But God in His love gave you a way to miss this horrible place.

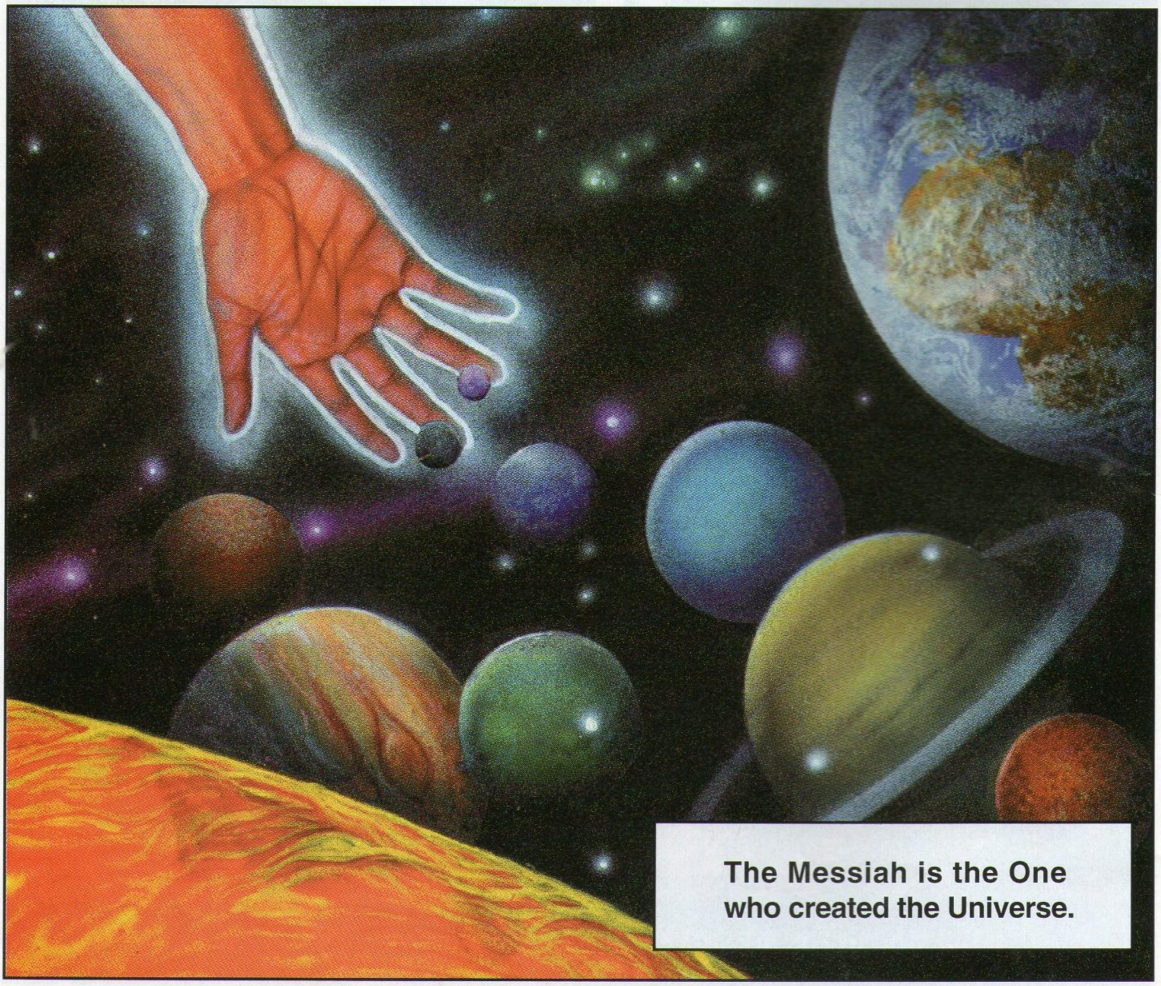
860 years after Jonah died, God made a way for **YOU** to go straight into heaven. Here's what happened…



Rebellious Israel was suffering at the hands of cruel Roman soldiers.

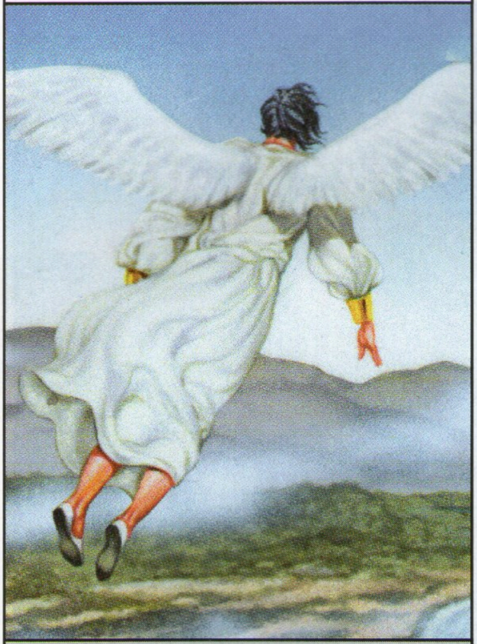
Israel asked God to send the Messiah to save them.



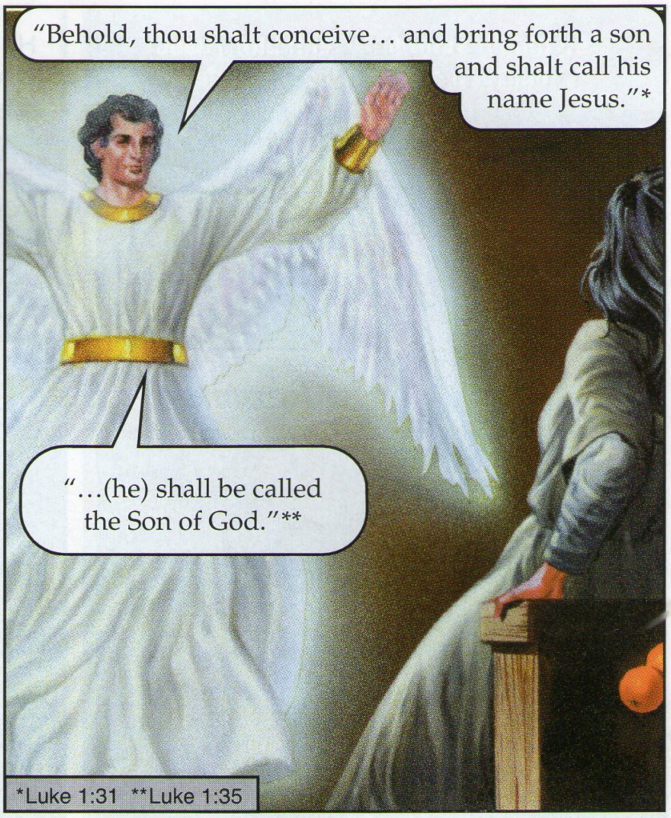


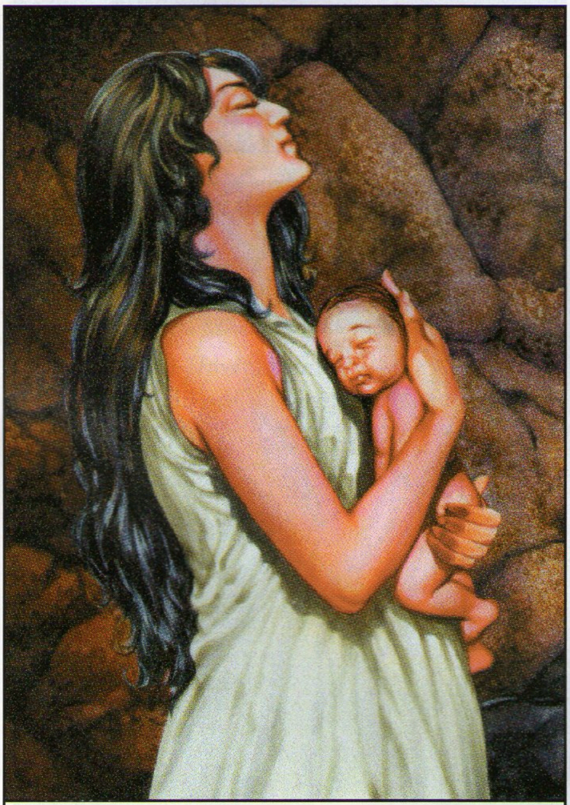
The Messiah is the One who created the Universe.

God sent Gabriel from heaven to the city of Nazareth…

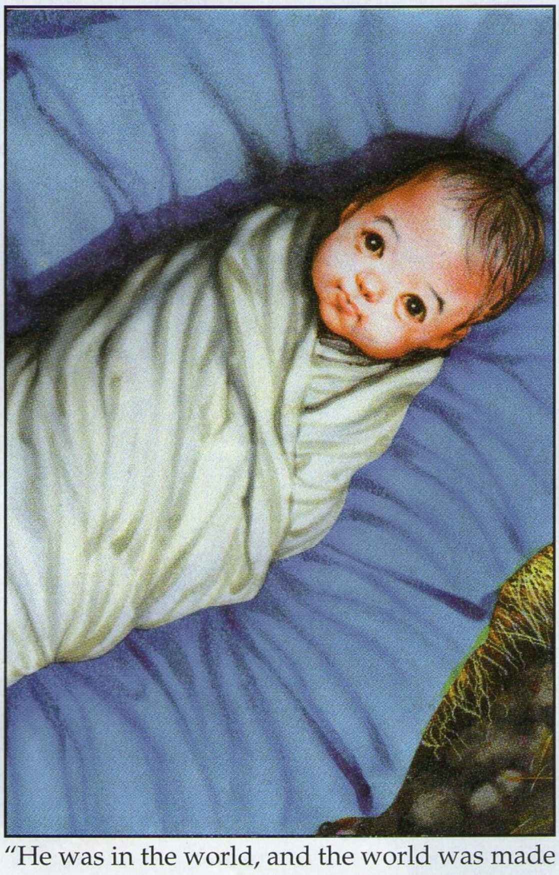


To visit a virgin named Mary.


"Behold, thou shalt conceive… and bring forth a son and shalt call his name Jesus."*
"…(he) shall be called the Son of God."**
*Luke 1:31 **Luke 1:35

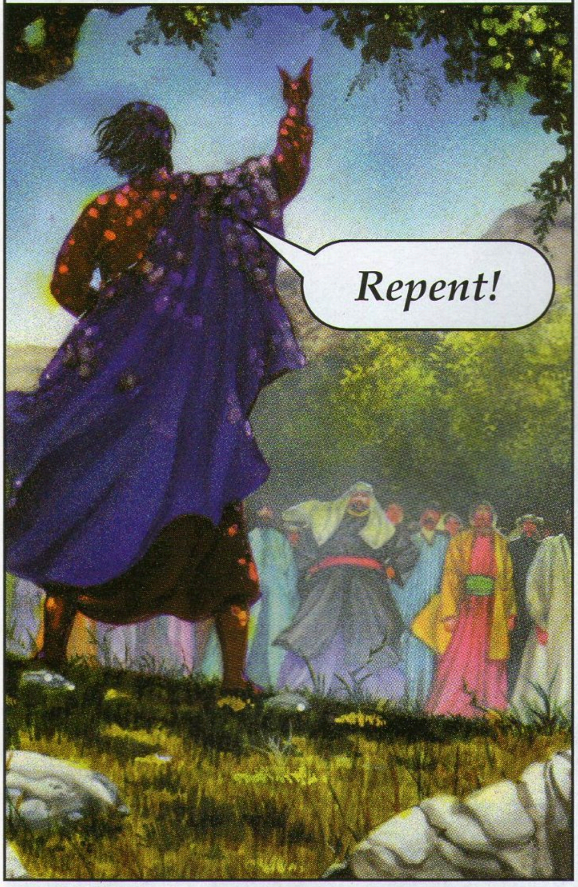


Mary gave birth to the Messiah in human form. We know him as Jesus Christ.

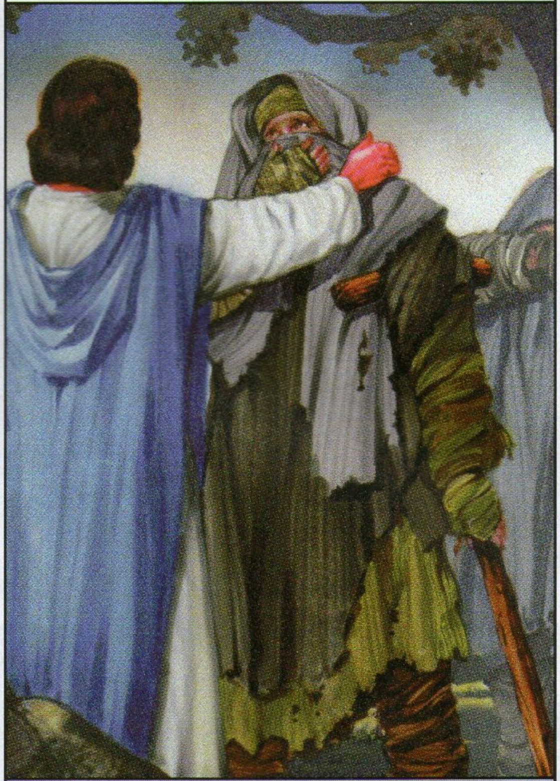


"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." John 1:10

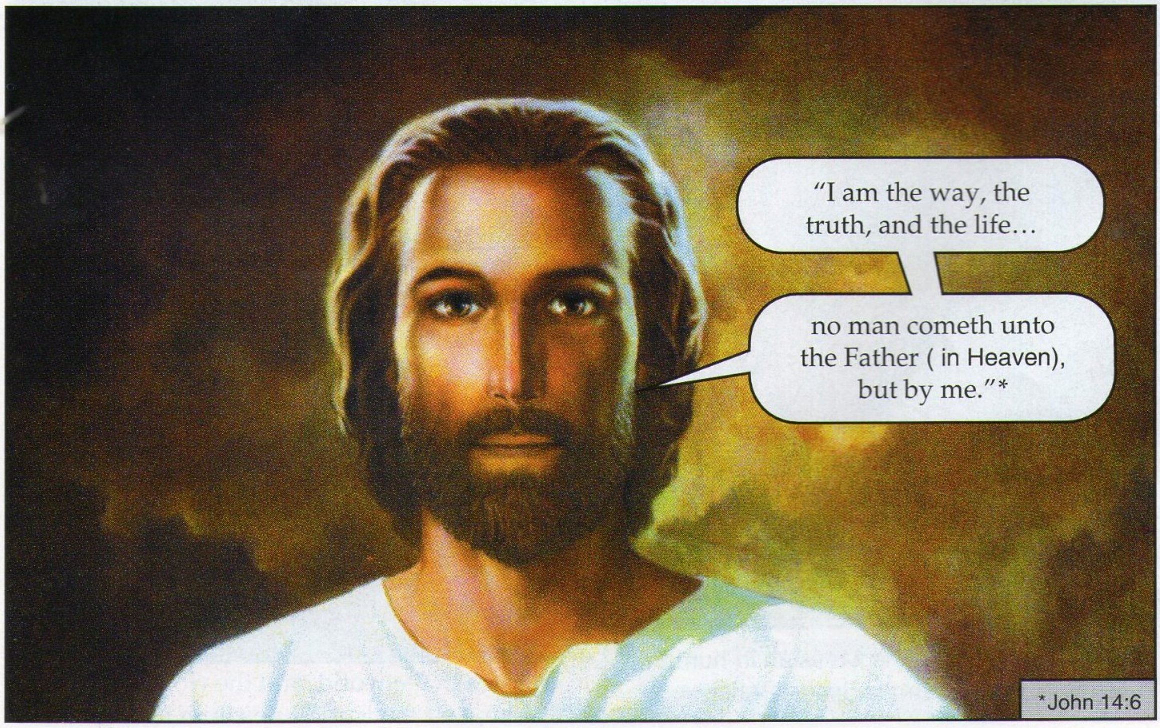
When the Lord Jesus began His ministry, His very first word was…



He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cleansed the lepers, cast out demons and raised the dead.

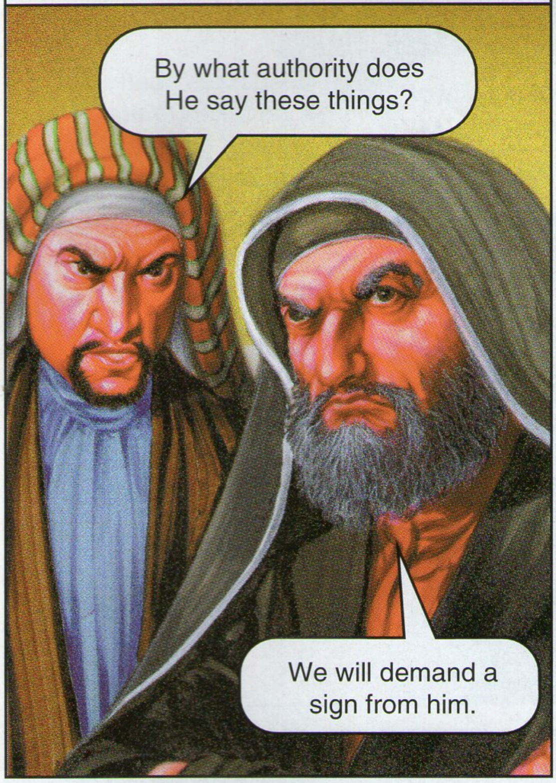


Jesus was the Light of the world.

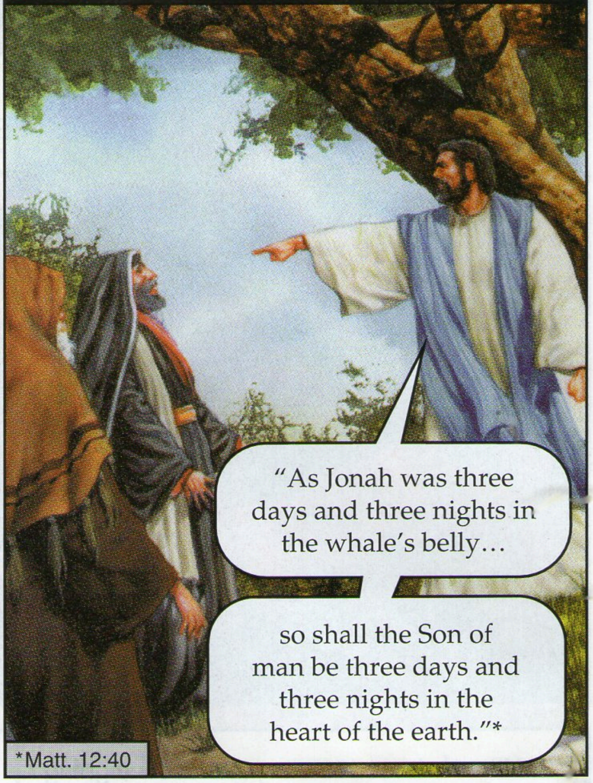

"I am the way, the truth, and the life…
no man cometh unto the Father (in Heaven), but by me."*

*John 14:6

The religionists hated those words then… and they hate them today.

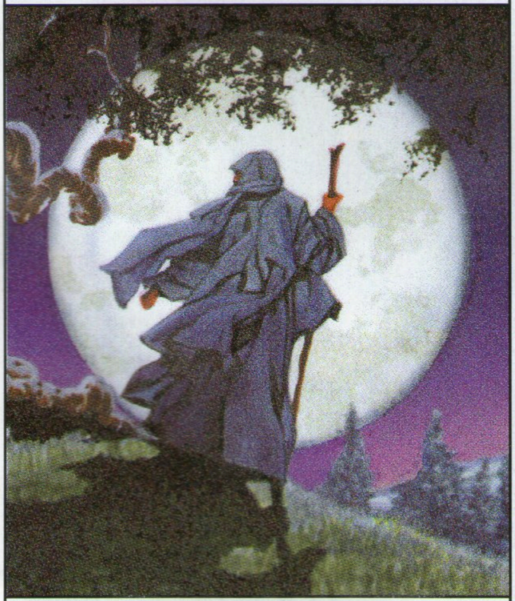

By what authority does He say these things?
We will demand a sign from him.

Jesus told them that there would be no sign, except the sign of Jonah.


"As Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly…
so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

*Matt. 12:40

The religious leaders hatched a plan to put Jesus to death, but they needed a traitor.

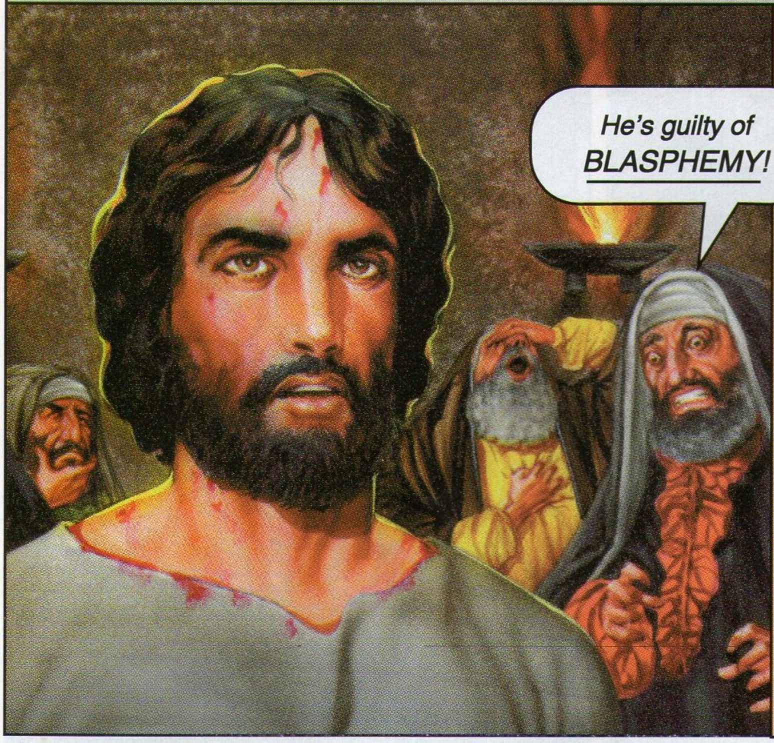


They found one in Judas Iscariot, who betrayed His Lord for 30 pieces of silver.

Late at night, the soldiers came to arrest Jesus.

He was taken to stand trial before those who hated Him. This would be one of the most corrupt trials in history.

After a rigged trial in the dead of night, Jesus was found guilty — and sentenced to death.


He's guilty of **BLASPHEMY!**

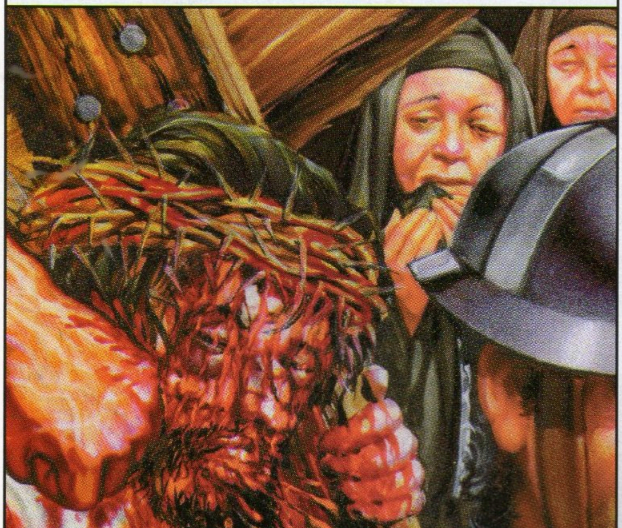
Jesus was beaten, then taken to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.

Though Jesus was totally innocent, Pilate, under pressure, condemned Him to death by crucifixion.

Jesus was slashed with a whip containing pieces of steel that tore His flesh…

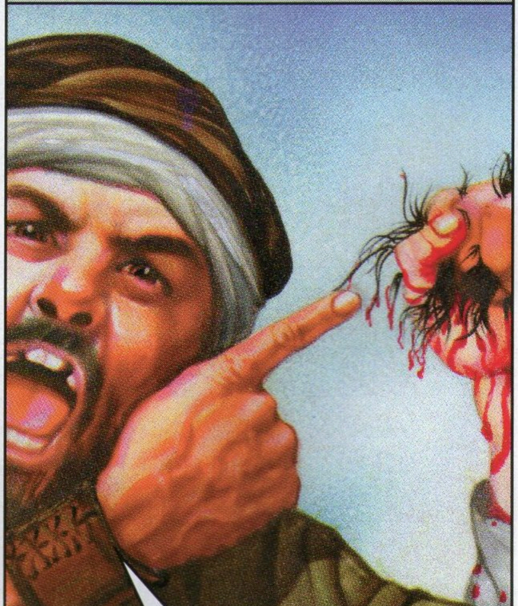
and was crowned with a crown of thorns.

He was forced to carry a cross weighing over 100 pounds to the place of execution.

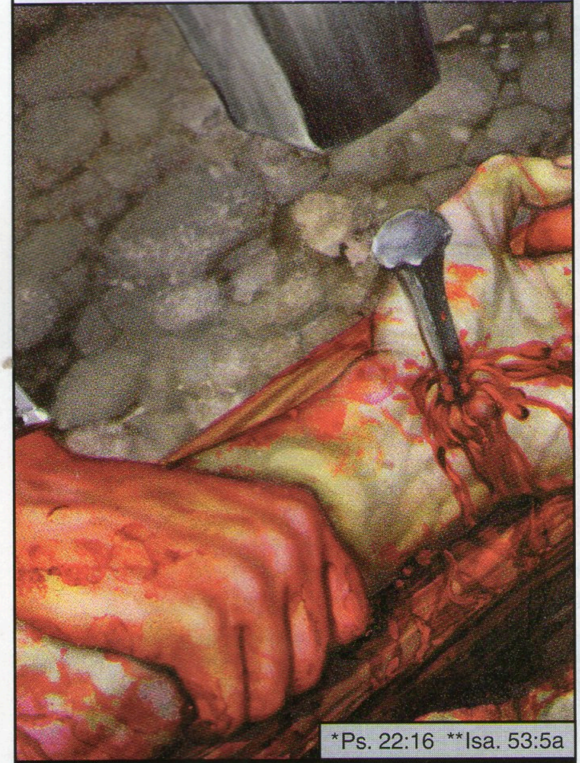


The splinters dug deep into the flesh of his back, which was already hanging in ribbons.

The crowds beat Him, spit on him and ripped the beard off His face.


LOOK! I've got his beard!

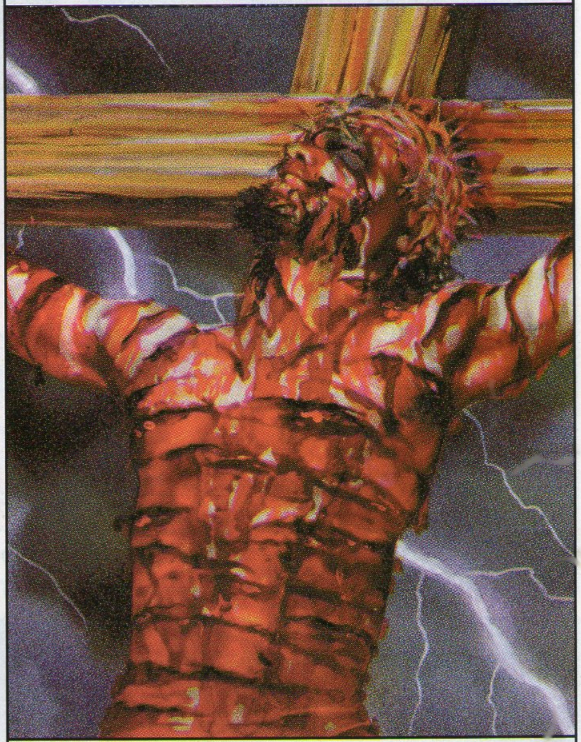
"They pierced my hands and my feet."*



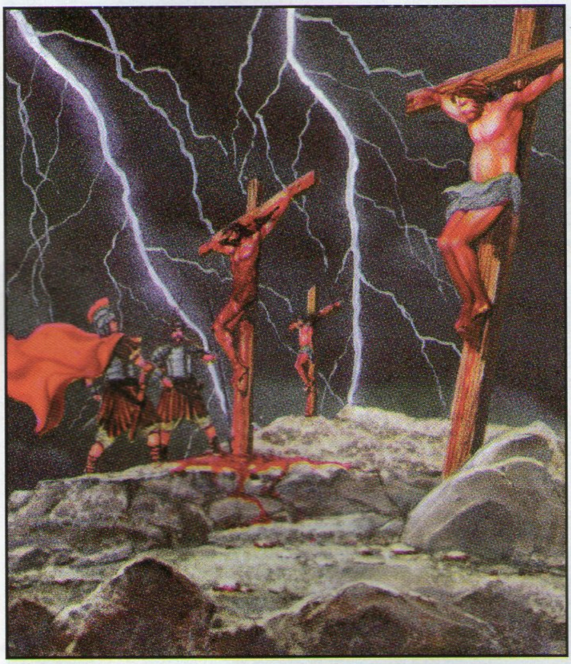
*Ps. 22:16 **Isa. 53:5a

"He was wounded for our transgressions…"**

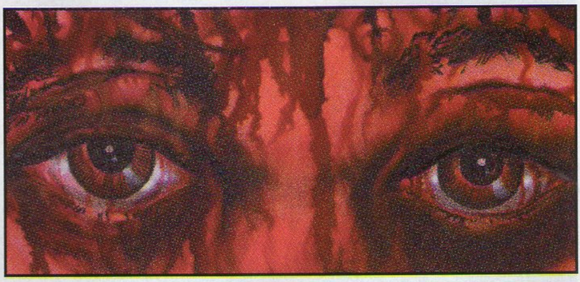
The blood coming from His wounds was God's blood.



"… his visage was so marred more than any man…" Isa. 52:14

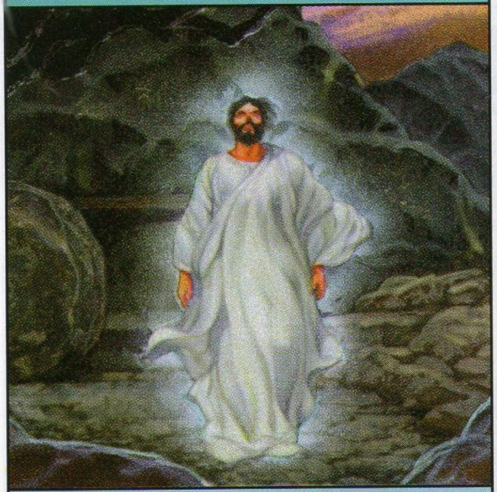


"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son (Jesus), that whosoever believeth in him should not perish (in hell), but have everlasting life (in heaven)."
John 3:16



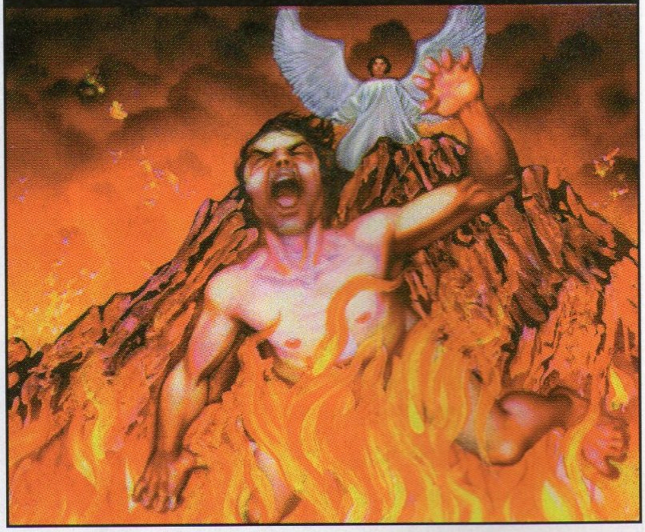
Jesus shed His precious blood to wash away our sins. He died an agonizing death, then was buried. What took place three days later rocked the world.

Jesus Christ rose from the dead!



He is now in Heaven at the right hand of the Father, getting ready for His Second Coming.

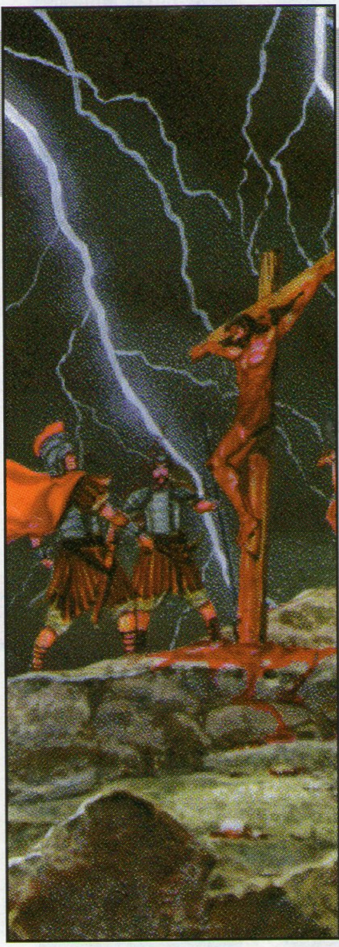
Those who reject Jesus as Lord and Saviour will suffer forever in the lake of fire.



As long as you are alive, you still have a chance to repent and accept Him.

Jesus made this wonderful promise to those who receive Him: "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you…" John 14:2

God wants to give you TWO GIFTS!



Jesus died on the cross so you could have two gifts if you repent. God wants to give them both to you right now:

1. **God wants to give you a brand new start in life:**

   "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17

2. **God wants to give you eternal life in Heaven:**

   "…the gift of God is eternal life (in Heaven) through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

The choice is yours!

"…choose you this day whom ye will serve…" Joshua 24:15

THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

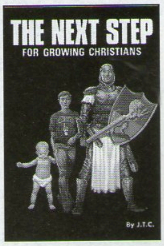
1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

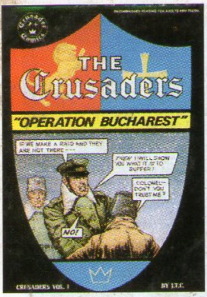
Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His **precious blood** and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your Bible every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Jesus Christ.



Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read **The Next Step**, available at Christian bookstores or from Chick Publications.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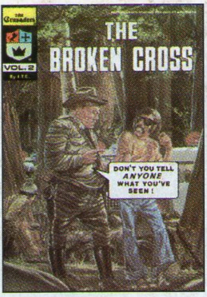
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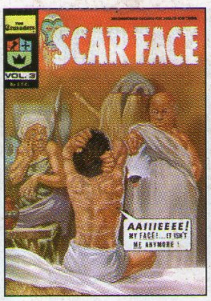
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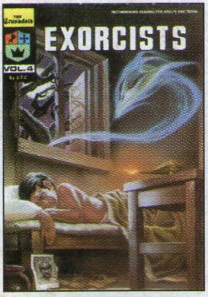
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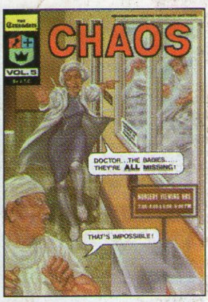
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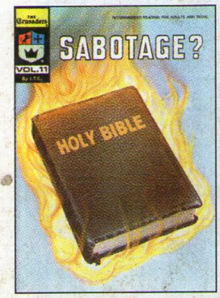
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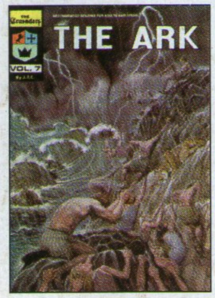
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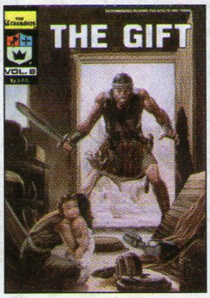
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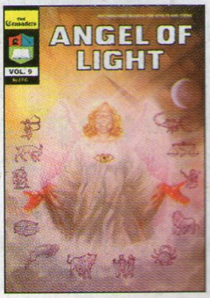
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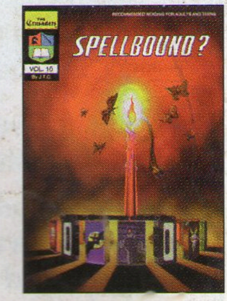
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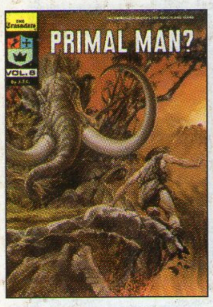
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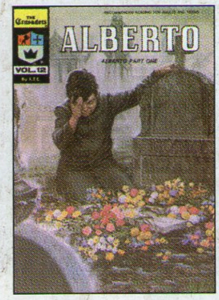
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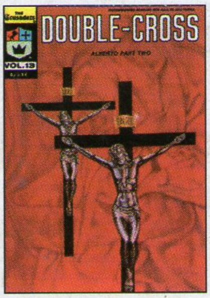
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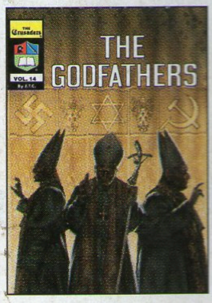
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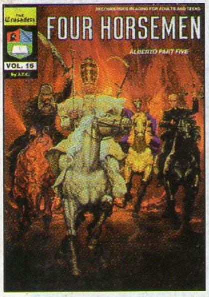
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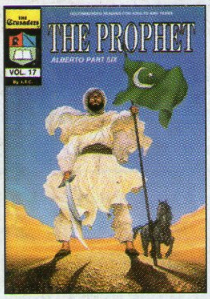
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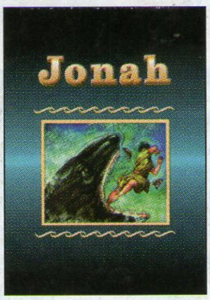

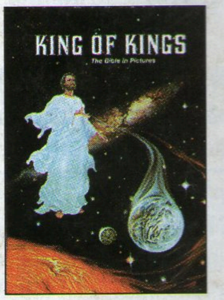
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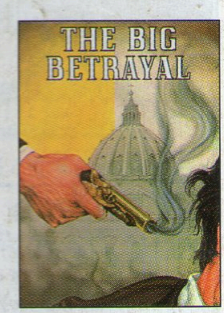
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